

BOOKISH PLAZA eZINE nr. 35, November 2014



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WELCOME TO THE BOOKISH PLAZA eZINE

Another month, another opportunity to get acquainted with Caribbean literature. This time around lots of literary activities, from a combination of **poetry and classical music** to a **documentary on the Jewish heritage in the Caribbean**. We **interview** and get an insight in the writing of author **Irma Grovell**, who published her first novel ***Glanzende schoenen***.



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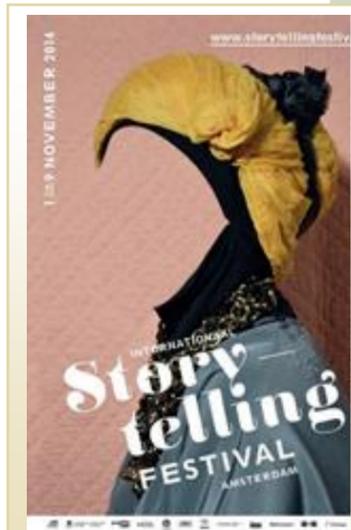
Get ready, because ***Yakanuko*** is on the way! The debut of presenter, artist **Curt Fortin** will surprise us all, but mainly the younger ones. A **nice gift for your kid** for the December Season Celebration. **Curaçao poetry** abound in our **New Arrivals**, like poetry by novelist Boeli van Leeuwen is amazing.

Closing item are the new books Bookish Plaza will receive like the **bilingual *De roep van de shoco***

Have a nice read & please share the eZine with readers and people who love books.

The Bookish Plaza Team

LITERARY NEWS

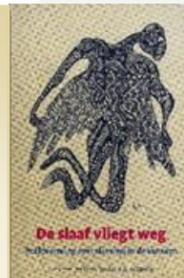


Boekpresentatie

De slaaf vliegt weg

What is the role of novels and other art genres really in the perception of the history of slavery.

Saturday 15 November - 02.00 p.m.
Bibliotheek Reigerbos, Rossumplein 1
Amsterdam ZO
toegang gratis



EVENTS

BOOKISH PLAZA @ upcoming event

8 November 2014

Lezing fonografische geschiedenis Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao

02.30 pm (doors open 02.00 pm)

Laaktheater, Ferrandweg 2

Den Haag

Entrance fee € 10,00

OTHER EVENTS

2 November 2014

Allerzielen, Mozart en Zwarte Poëzie

02.00 – 03.45 pm

Bijlmerparktheater

Amsterdam ZO



2 & 16 November 2014

TV Broadcast Documentary 'A Sjetel in the Caribbean'

2.15 pm

Joods Omroep, NPO 2

8 & 9 November 2014

Jubileeconcert Ars Vocalis with poetry by St. Martin poet Drisana Jack

More info www.arsvocalis.nl

27 November 2014

Presentation 'Glanzende schoenen' by Irma Grovell

04.00 – 06.00 p.m.

Arubahuis, Den Haag

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"a good read @ a great price"



INTERVIEW with IRMA GROVELL

Recently Irma Grovell launched her first novel in the Dutch language. Time to get acquainted with the author.



Dutch

€ 15,95

When and why did you begin writing?

Besides drawing I used to be scribbling poems and little songs on pieces of paper when I was younger, but I really started writing during my English studies. There I learned how a short story was set up. We used a thick book called 'The Norton introduction to Literature' and I got hooked. The explanation, the writing, everything was in English. That was probably the reason that I deeply got interested in story writing.

How many books have you written? Which is your favorite? And why?

I wrote two books 'Kralen uit de Cariben' [Beads from the Caribbean] and '**Glanzende schoenen**' [Shining Shoes]. The first one contains twenty short stories out of my youth and the second one is my first novel. I love them both. They were hard work and now I can look at them and feel proud.



BOOK REVIEW 'Love Songs Make You Cry'



Irma Grovell

Where do you get your information or ideas for your books?

Ideas in my books come from out of my youth and from things I hear around me that sometimes trigger my remembrance. Some mornings I get up with ideas. If something sticks with me for a while I write it down. Once I interviewed people who gave their consent to use it in a story. During story writing we learned to use our imagination to get a story going.

You write exclusively in Dutch.

What is your experience in writing in a relatively foreign language?

I grew up speaking English, at five years of age I started learning Dutch and on the school playground I picked up a little Papiamentu. Daily I speak Dutch, but when I get together with family and my Caribbean friends we speak English. After my English studies I went to

BOOKISH PLAZA

Promote your culture through books

work teaching, but I wanted to continue writing. In those days I could hardly find a place to continue writing in English in my free time. I did find a course in writing at the Volksuniversiteit, but it was in Dutch. After two years of following the course my short stories were mounting up. That's when my first Dutch book was born. After a couple more years of learning to write novels in Dutch, I remained writing in Dutch. So my awareness for the language grew and I know most of the time where my weaknesses lay. Sometimes I would write poems or short stories in English not to lose my touch for my language. The best poems I publish on my website:

www.irmagrovell.com

Who is your favorite author and what is it that really strikes you about his/her work?

I don't have one favorite author, I just like reading all kind of books. I like Toni Morrison, Isabel Allende, Frank Martinus Arion, Diana Lebac, Maeve Binchy etc. On my journey looking for international authors while I was teaching 'Wereldliteratuur' at the Volksuniversiteit in Hilversum I stumbled on many authors whom I'd never heard of. Here are three out of my list; Meir Shalev from Israel, Caryl Phillips born in St. Kitts lives in the US, José Saramago from Portugal and Merchè Rodoreda from Spain. Eye openers. This year I read the debut from the Spanish author Jesús Carrasco with the title *Intemperie*, in Dutch *De vlucht* and

had to put it away, but took it back up because I wanted to know what happened next. The book described the powerful loneliness of a boy on the run. Reading these books gave me an insight of life elsewhere and I guess that part influenced me in my writing.

Is there a message in your writing that you want readers to grasp?

Usually I take a problem that I see as a problem in our lives and write my story focused on it. The problem is not exclusively from the Caribbean, it could be anywhere. Hopefully awareness will help the one whom it concerns or be a good story for others to read.

What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?

Letting go. I'm a doubtful person. Always asking myself, is this good enough? The same doubt I had with my books. Will people like them? Have I done my utmost? My book '[Glanzende schoenen](#)' took longer than needed to get published because I kept rewriting it. After one more master class I had the feeling that I was ready. Now is the time. I had to let my darling go and seek a place for itself with God's blessings.

Can you share a little of your current work with us?

Just a little bit. Right now I'm writing about a dream a young girl has. She is longing to move from Aruba to the Mother country 'Holland' where she will learn something to get ahead in life. Will she?

**Come Out Date
4 November**

YAKANUKO

by

Curt Fortin



**Children's book
for the
December
Season**

**Reading, a great way
to engage with your
kids**

Dutch € 12,99

SNEAK PEEK

eZine December 2014

- Special Season Celebration Issue
- Literary News
- Events Calendar
- And Many More News....

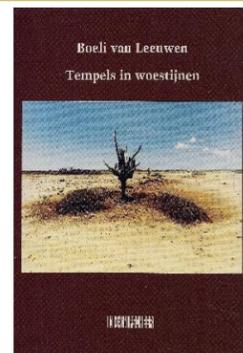
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a good read at a great price

FREE eZine send e-mail to

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NEW ARRIVALS

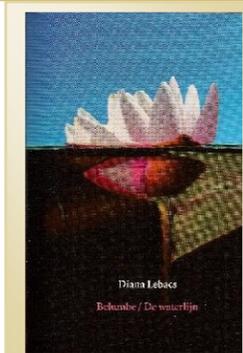


Tempels in de woestijn

Boeli van Leeuwen

Early poems (1947) of an author who became a great novelist. According to Wim Rutgers we can read this collection of poems, both in its structural organization of the totality as in single poems, as a journey from darkness to the light, from death to life, from pessimism to optimism, from threat to release, from God to accepting a natural life.

Dutch € 13,50



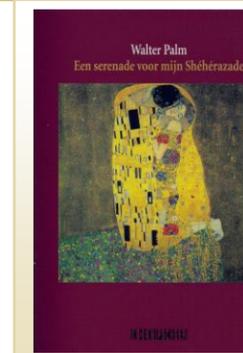
Belumbe / De waterlijn

Diana Lebac

Are these poetry embedded in the reality of Curaçao or are they a metaphor? Almost in parlando style, visual and sometimes steeped in a passionate inspiration, the poet lures the reader within her language labyrinth. A poetry rich in contrasts, contradictions and paradoxes.

This collection is the writer's poetry debut. She is widely known for her youth books.

Dutch/Papiamentu € 15,00



Een serenade voor mijn Shéhérazade

Walter Palm

The love for his muse inspired the poet to write strong, love poems. The collection is a tribute to his Shéhérazade. Just like the legendary storyteller, the poet seeks to entertain his beloved a year long, each week, with an ode. She has awoken his boring existence with her love and kisses, as he tries to captivate her with his lasting enchanting poems.

Dutch € 16,50

What is Bookish Plaza!

Bookish Publishers and Bookish Plaza are part of the Bookish Group.

Bookish Plaza sells fiction and non-fiction books online. We are specialized in (Caribbean) literature and poetry, but we also have books on history, politics, sociology and children's books among others.

Bookish Plaza also has a collection of second hand books from novels to non-fiction and social sciences books.

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Soon for Sale

