

## Dankwoord

Here I am. A happy, nervous, honoured translator. Can you imagine being in the spotlights like this, when usually the only light you see is the light of your computer screen? Just joking of course, there's plenty of daylight in my life. But spotlights?

So, thank you, dear jury, for honouring Saša's book and my translation. My voice to be heard, my name to be mentioned, means the world to me.

Thank you, people at Ambo Anthos, for giving me the opportunity to translate all these beautiful books. For me, the summer of 2005 will always be the summer in which my son slowly, carefully started to walk, as well as my career. Saša Stanišić and Juli Zeh are just two of 'our' writers, and being able to spend a big part of my time with their words and thoughts makes me a grateful translator.

Thank you, Nederlands Letterenfonds (Dutch Foundation for Literature)! Your support, in translation grants as in recognition, like this honourful award, is the wind in the sails of my existence as a translator.

Thank you, translation buddies Ralph and Herman (and all the other ones; translators are kind and social people, and we know how to support each other).

Thank you, dear family. I left you home today, there are certain things in life I just don't want to share... but I know you're very proud of me. Thank you for being there for me, especially every time this black hole of uncertainty and desperation creeps up on me, mostly in the last phase of every translation, when the destructive voices in my head overshout the obvious quality of my work.

And thank you, dear Timo, big fluffy cat. You're not fat, you're just 'very much'. Thank you for your soft cuddles and keeping my keyboard warm. (This was a special request from my daughter).

A wise man once said... translators are the captains on a ship full of ideas, words and stories. Thank you, dear Saša, for letting me migrate your words, your thoughts, your originality. Thank you for crossing borders together. Thank you for letting me cook all this new expressions in my little translator's caboose. Thank you for trusting me with your precious cargo...

Sometimes this cargo of yours makes me desperate, makes me hold my breath,  
bite my nails, curse my faith.

Sometimes it makes me very sad... There's no way to escape the words.

Sometimes it's just there, making me make a living.

Sometimes your cargo let's me sing and dance and laugh. Those are the best  
days of my translator's life.

I've been Saša's personal captain throughout many years now. I care deeply  
about the ship I'm navigating. Saša cares deeply about his captains, all of them.  
He puts his trust in people he's never met, out of a shared love for language  
and story's. Every translator should have a writer like Saša in his life...

Dear Saša, let's sail many more oceans together. Send me ships full of words,  
I'll guide them through stormy waters and fog for you. I will fight the pirate  
editors. I'll be your mate, your cook, your captain, whatever. Ahoy.

**Annemarie Vlaming**

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