



An Introduction to Eva Meijer



Cossee International Agency
2026

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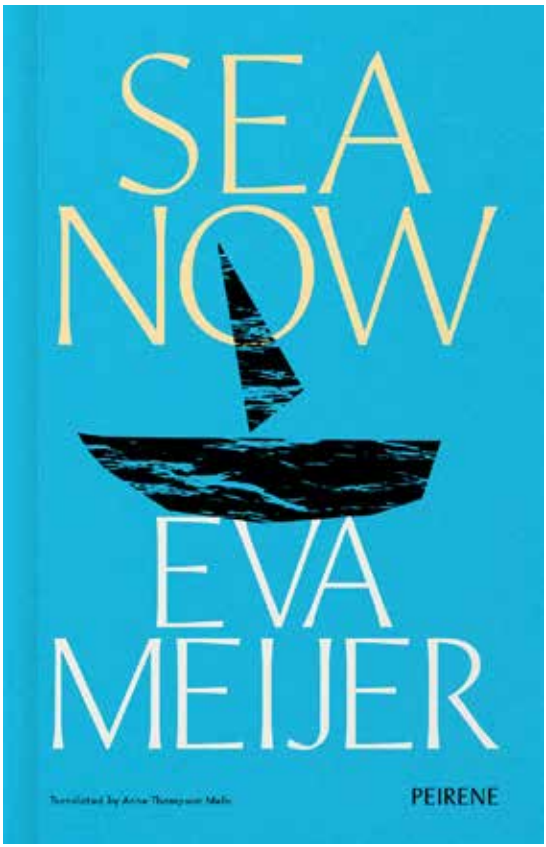
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Eva Meijer is a philosopher, visual artist, writer and singer-songwriter. Meijer is one of the most widely translated Dutch writers of their generation, with their fiction and non-fiction having been translated into over twenty languages in 53 foreign editions. Since the publication of their first novel in 2011, Meijer's works have received numerous awards, including the Halewijnprijs honouring their entire oeuvre. Meijer's books have been met enthusiastically by the Dutch but also international press, including reviews in *The Guardian*, *Der Spiegel* and *The New York Review of Books*. Recurring themes are language including silence, madness, nonhuman animals, and politics. Meijer also writes essays and columns for Dutch newspapers, and is a member of the Multispecies Collective.

FICTION



A WORD FOR

240 pages, 71.300 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2026

'Incredibly well done. It's impressive to write a book that's so critical of the times, yet doesn't feel heavy. A phenomenal book.' – *Nieuwsweekend*

"Careless" is the first word to disappear, carelessly, and nobody notices. "Magpie" and "money" are missed more. But it's only with the loss of "yellow" that people get upset. Word disease? Language sabotage? A meaning-conspiracy? No one knows where the words have gone or how to keep them.

The government proposes a temporary shift to English, which would also be good for business. A small group of academics and poets refuses to accept this. The vanishing words express something that cannot be said any other way. But how to save the language when the word "language" itself has disappeared?

'The prize for the most original novel of 2026 can already be awarded to philosopher Eva Meijer. With *A Word For*, they have written a text that sparkles and tingles, one that astounds with its many witty and clever insights.'
– *Trouw*

"The book is very funny, but what Meijer presents here is much more than a joke. It's comparable to what Gaea Schoeters does in her novel *The Gift*. How shall I put it: It hit me hard." – *NRC* •••••



Copies sold
10.000 copies sold

Material
English translation available , part of the '2026 Highlights' by the Dutch Foundation for Literature

SEA NOW

240 pages, 53.000 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2022

'What sets *Sea Now* apart from other recent climate fiction is its decentering of the human perspective [...] It asks us to think more broadly than we are accustomed, to take the time to imagine the lives of rabbits and fish, and to wonder what the sea might feel.' – *Words Without Borders*

The country is flooding; the sea is gaining a kilometre of land every day. The Prime Minister holds a daily press conference, and the Ministry of Defence sends soldiers to the dykes. Conspiracy theorists shout for "Action!" online. Scientists flock from far and wide to investigate this rare phenomenon. Germany makes sports halls available for its evacuated neighbours. The king leaves the country.

But where can the wild deer go? And what will happen to the Stayers, camping out on the roofs of office buildings in the big cities? Once the people have been evacuated and the last seagulls find refuge elsewhere, we follow climate activist Arie, student Willow, and oceanographer Paula van der Steen on their voyage across the new sea and discover how the water fundamentally changes their view of the world.

Sea Now is a novel about the greatest global challenge of our time, about nature that both threatens and nourishes us, and about humans, who must reinvent themselves.

'People picture disaster either as a sudden explosion, or as something that might happen elsewhere, or far in the future. But in *Sea Now* disaster just comes, crawling forward, wave by wave.' – *Chicago Review of Books*



Rights sold
German (btb), World English (Peirene), North American (Two Lines Press), Hungarian (Magvetö), Turkish (Kaplumbaa)

Nominations
Libris Literatuurprijs

Material
English translation available

FORWARDS

240 pages, 55.000 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2019

'Meijer is building a quirky literary oeuvre about ideals and idealists.' – *Trouw*

In 1921, a group of anarchists leaves Paris to start the commune "The green path". Their aim is to live in harmony with mother earth, follow the principles of nudism and veganism, and for men and women to live as equals. Almost a hundred years later, a student of political philosophy finds an edition of the diary of one of its members and is immediately compelled by their story.

Sam convinces her partner and two close friends to trade the city for the rural north and start leading a life off the grid. They come across spiritual fortune seekers and money hungry estate agents, they reach the limits of love and are torn by the anguish of remoteness. Their dreams don't seem to hold up against the pressures of modern society. One after the other leaves the house. *Forwards* is a book on love and freedom, and about the struggle for the things that really matter.

'Eva Meijer magnificently shows that all people have different ideas when it comes to putting the concept of freedom to practice and that joint ideals aren't so easy to implement.' – *Allesoverboekenenschrijvers*



Rights sold
German (btb)

Material
English sample,
German translation available

THE NEW RIVER

296 pages, 61.000 words
published by Das Mag Publishers in 2020

'In 58 short chapters Meijer writes a dreamy, enticing thriller.' – *Nederlands Dagblad*

Close to the village a river appears out of thin air and keeps changing shape. Scientists believe large-scale forest clearing for soy production is the cause; villagers point to the old gods. English journalist Janet Stone arrives to write an article about the river, but then soy farmer Hugo Frys is murdered.

The killing turns out to be the precursor of a series of uncanny events. Janet begins an investigation, and discovers the land is being assimilated by more than just the river. In this hallucinatory eco-thriller, with elements of Jorge Luis Borges and David Lynch, Eva Meijer creates a world that is very similar to ours; a world to disappear in.

'Changing perspective so the human being is no longer at the centre of attention is something Eva Meijer likes doing.' – *De Volkskrant*



Rights sold
German (btb),
Italian (Nottetempo)

Nominations
Confituur Boekhandelsprijs and
BNG Bank Literatuurprijs

Material
English sample available,
Italian translation available

BIRD COTTAGE

288 pages, 63.000 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2019

'An entertaining and thought-provoking read.' – *The Guardian*

Len Howard (1894-1973) spent the second half of her life in a small, remote house in the English countryside. She wrote two international bestsellers about robins, tits, sparrows, and other birds living in and around her house. Although not originally a biologist, she was a pioneer in the field of animal research. She studied birds on the basis of their trust and observed their character, peculiarities and habits. In the meantime, their mutual appreciation and friendship grew.

Howard knew as a girl that she would not stay in her town of birth in Sussex. The soirées and romantic intrigues of the countryside high society bored her. But in the end she gave up her career as a violinist in London, in order to move to Ditchling in Southern England, where she slowly gained the trust of the many birds surrounding her cottage. Her musical hearing permitted her to differentiate between the nuances in their languages – at least when she was able to keep the mailman and visitors at bay.

Bird Cottage is a book about music, the songs of birds and great tit conventions. It is also a book about resistance, and about deciding what is important.

'So inspiring and touching that during my reading, for a moment I felt part of a natural, meaningful whole.' – *NRC*

Nominations
BNG, Libris and ECI Literatuur prijs; the English edition was nominated for the Vondel Prize for translation and the International Dublin Literary Award



Rights sold
French (Presses de la Cité), World English (Pushkin Press), German (btb), Turkish (Sel), Polish (Marginesy), Swedish (Weyler Förlag), Simplified Chinese (New World Press), Czech (Host), Croatian (Naklada Ljevak), Italian (Nottetempo), Spanish (Ático de los Libros), Marathi (Walden)

Material English, French, German translations available

PEACOCK

256 pages, 64.500 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2013

'Veganism meets *Breaking Bad.*' – *Veganisme*

After a devastating breakup, feminist performance artist Iris Peacock plans to retire in a remote village by the sea with her dog Pol. Her neighbor Marcel is an animal rights activist, who convinces her little by little of the need to intervene in the way humans treat other animals. Marcel makes mailbombs in a shed in his garden, Iris throws them through butchers' mailboxes at night – because who would suspect a middle-aged woman? At the height of the national attention for their resistance, the inevitable happens: someone gets hurt.

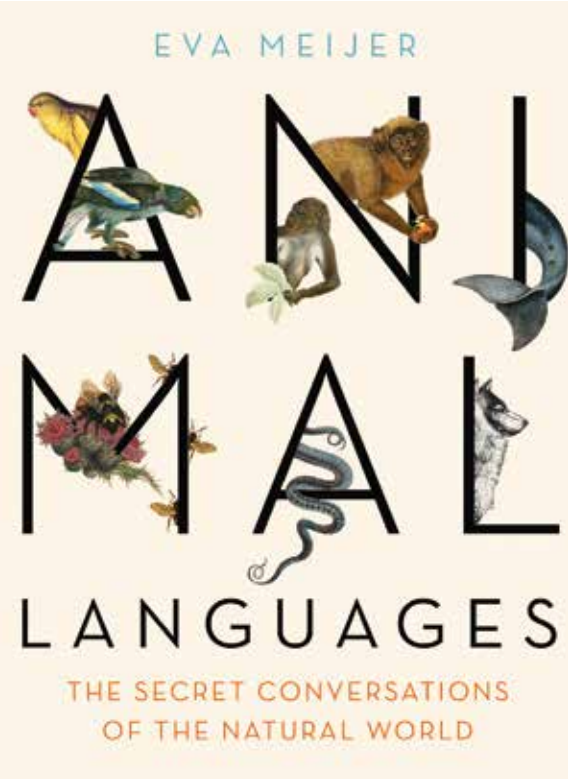
Peacock is a novel about humans and other animals that is as confrontational as it is tragicomic, about thinking for yourself and doing the right thing in a world where it isn't always clear what that is. With this animal rights adventure story, Meijer invites the reader to think about their own choices. What does justice demand from us? How can we be a good person in a world shaped by violence towards others?

'In clear and vivid language, Eva Meijer describes a cautious love story, beautiful reflections on the lives of humans and animals, a couple of unsettling attacks on butcheries, and tragicomic scenes in prison and court.' – *NRC*



Material
English sample available

NON-FICTION


EVA MEIJER
ANIMAL
LANGUAGES
THE SECRET CONVERSATIONS
OF THE NATURAL WORLD

ANTHROPOFASCISM

160 pages, 31.700 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2026

A plea for a new understanding of justice – looking further than the human perspective.

The meat-eater is back, as if he'd never left. Plant-based eating is not trendy anymore; real men opt for a meat-based diet or hunting. Real men embrace the manosphere, putting rights for women and other minorities, which seemed secured, back at stake.

In *Anthropofascism*, Eva Meijer explains that these phenomena are interconnected: they stem from a view of humanity that has been gaining ground in recent years due to the rise of the far right and capitalist techno-populism. Anthropofascism – a portmanteau of anthropocentrism and fascism – is characterized by an authoritarian attitude toward non-human animals and people who are viewed as "other." Animalization and dehumanization are two sides of the same coin. If one wants to understand the rise of these exclusionary practices, one must look beyond human politics.

To do so, Meijer discusses other ways of living, based not on domination and possession, but on sharing and care. For we can learn to do things differently, with and from other animals.



Material
English sample available

THE LIFE OF MICE

128 pages, 21.000 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2025

'Touchingly beautiful and well-designed. (...) This is a book that's truly worth reading, approaching it with the same open mind and curiosity that Meijer has for the mice.'
– NRC

For the past three years, twenty-five mice lived in the house of philosopher and writer Eva Meijer. They came from Utrecht University's laboratory and had been lucky enough to be part of a project to rehome laboratory animals. Meijer took care of the mice and learned, as best as they could, to live with them.

In *The Life of Mice*, Eva Meijer argues against anthropocentric thinking that puts humans at the center of society marginalizing other creatures, organisms and things. Along the lines of bird researcher Len Howard, whom Meijer depicts in their best-selling novel *Bird Cottage*, Meijer also suggests a different way of studying animals: only by looking closely at them can you get to know them. Indeed, living with mice showed Meijer that we can learn a whole lot from them – including about ourselves. Meijer bought a multi-storey mouse house, played music to them, talked to them, and fed them. Some were timid, others inquisitive. A few became friends.

'This publication, illustrated with drawings and large photographs made by the author, presents the life of mice in a beautiful, engaging, and accessible way. '
– Boekenkrant



Rights sold
German (Matthes & Seitz), Turkish (Kaplumbaa), Polish (Linia), Spanish (Penguin Editorial)

Nominations
Winner Natuurboekenprijs 2025

Material
English sample available

‘All animals, I think, know more or less the same about what matters in life: community, love, care, death. Seeing how the mice lived their lives – not as a biologist or neuroscientist, but as a philosopher and fellow creature to the mice – taught me about life itself. Because their lives are so short, I also witnessed the cycle of life 25 times. First you are young and look for your place in life; then you are strong and work on your projects; then you slow down; and finally you become part of all there is before you were born. The mice showed me how life and death are always entwined, and how thin the thread is that separates them. In the end, we are all vulnerable beings who are here only briefly. The best thing we can do is take good care of one another.’

Eva Meijer in science magazine *Nautilus* on their research for *The Life of Mice*



POLITICAL SILENCES

128 pages, 22.000 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2022

'Meijer elaborates on our current way of speaking and staying silent with intelligence, nuance and conviction.' — *Bazarow*

Language is central in politics. In the parliament, on social media and in public debate, people argue with words. Who is able to speak, however, is never fixed: in Black Lives Matter, #MeToo and the climate marches, people who originally were silenced demand a voice. Silence can also oppress: sometimes people's (and other animals') languages are excluded, some-times they just aren't heard.

In this philosophical essay, Eva Meijer maps the different kinds of political silences and shines a new light on dis-cussions about political voice. But silence is also a form of rebellion, or can be a shelter. Listening and being silent are part of every good conversation.

'By systematising the meanings of silence, Meijer creates space for a different way of thinking. Written with sympathy but without melodrama about Black Lives Matter, climate strikers, indigenous peoples, children, about non-human animals'. — *NRC*



Rights sold
Spanish (Katz Editores),
Turkish (Kaplumbaa)

Material
English sample available,
Spanish translation available

FIREDUNE

88 pages, 19.300 words
published by Leminiscaat Publishers in 2021

'A lighthouse signaling hope for a changing relationship to nature, and with it a better future.' – *Streven magazine*

Nature is disappearing. Animal species are going extinct, ecosystems are destroyed, the permafrost is melting, our winters become autumns. But what is nature? And isn't thinking about nature as something separate from humanity what causes many of our problems, like the climate crisis and the coronavirus pandemic?

Eva Meijer visits the Dutch island of Vlieland for a week The island ecosystem is under pressure, but there are also parts of their own history there, time that never comes back. With the aid of writers, philosophers, artists, and their dog Doris, Meijer looks for what it is exactly that is disappearing and what we can offer in return.

'Eva Meijer does not want to make a scientific analysis of what is going wrong. No, this essay is a personal (their dogs have a leading role) and poetic (beautifully written in evocative language) search for what nature means and what it means that we are losing nature.' – *Bazarow*



Rights sold
German (Matthes & Seitz)

Material
German translation available

THE LIMITS OF MY LANGUAGE

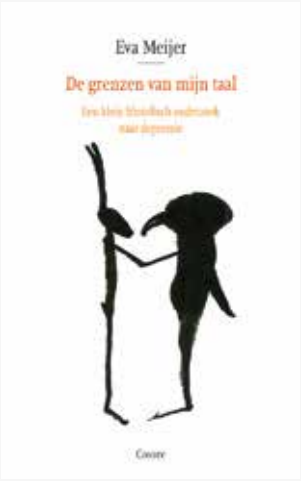
144 pages, 29.000 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2019

'On a subject that has in fact been written, sung and talked about extensively, Meijer manages to avoid all clichés. *The Limits of my Language* shows, despite the title, what language is capable of.' – *Trouw*

In 2016, more than a million people in the Netherlands were using an antidepressant. While a lot has been written about the treatment of depression, its broader meaning has received far less attention. In *The Limits of My Language* Eva Meijer uses their own experiences with depression as a resource for a surprisingly new analysis of the phenomenon.

Meijer explains how people with recurring depressive periods come to resemble trees growing crookedly – how not their brain but their soul keeps adapting. The book discusses the benefit of therapy, the way in which language gives us shape and how we can sometimes reshape ourselves in conversations with others. The essay is a plea for literally moving on, for going for a run and walking the dogs; a plea for being perseverant.

'Sharp analyses of Eva Meijer's own experiences with depression are interspersed with passages in which, drawing on Wittgenstein, Woolf, Sartre and other thinkers and writers, Meijer philosophises on the idea of suicide, the relationship between creativity and madness, the usefulness of therapy and medication and the comfort of animal companionship.' – *NRC*



Rights sold
World English (Pushkin), World Spanish (Katz Editores), German (btb), Polish (Linia), Korean (Kachi), Norwegian (Flux), Turkish (Kaplumbaa), Italian (Nottetempo), Portuguese/Brazil (Ayine)

Nominations
Bookspot Literatuurprijs

Material
German, Spanish, and English translations available

POLITICAL ANIMALS

128 pages, 29.000 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2017

'An extremely useful philosophical contribution to a debate that will certainly carry on in the future.' – *NRC*

Aristotle wrote that humans are the only political species, because the human race is able to recognize the difference between right and wrong, good and evil. Nowadays, other animals are still excluded from the political landscape, while humans continue to make decisions that will influence their lives. We are still in the process of learning more about their cultures and interior lives, that prove to be more complex than we initially thought. Animals defend and protect themselves against, but also work and live alongside humans: we share our planet and our households.

In *Political Animals*, Eva Meijer discusses how we could live with non-human animals in a different way. Could we possibly start to see them as our fellow citizens, or as a sovereign race? And can we organize a different kind of democracy, which will include a wide variety of species? What is just? And what do they actually want?

'*Political Animals* offers the opportunity to temporarily view the world from a completely different perspective. A daring, original, innovative, very well-written and accessible essay.'
– Trouw



Rights sold
German (btb), Italian (Nottetempo)

Nominations
Winner of the Hypathia-prijs for the best philosophical work of the year 2018

Material
English sample,
German and Italian translations available

ANIMAL LANGUAGES

174 pages, words 48.000 words
published by ISVW Publishers in 2016

'A fascinating investigation of new forms of co-existence and about ways of dealing with other animals.' – *Der Spiegel*

Dolphins and parrots call each other by their names. Fork tailed drongos mimic the calls of other animals to scare them away and then steal their dinner. In the songs of many species of birds, and in skin patterns of squid, we find grammatical structures. Bats like to gossip. These animals are no exception: most social animals have complex and nuanced ways of communicating with one another and with humans.

In *Animal Languages,* Eva Meijer discusses many examples of recent empirical research, presenting us with a new perspective on other animals, while also raising philosophical questions. Can we call nonhuman animal communication language? What exactly is language? Is human language special, or are all languages special in their own way? After reading *Animal Languages*, you might not be able to speak with all animals, but you will without a doubt see them in a different light.

'Full of facts and empirical research, *Animal Languages* provides a valuable insight into the complexity of language and communication.' – *Athenaeum Bookshop*

Nominations

Socrates Beker for the best Dutch language philosophy book of 2016

Material

German, English, Spanish, French translations available



Rights sold

German (Matthes & Seitz), World English (John Murray), US (MIT Press), French (Presses de la Cité), Polish (Marginesy), Turkish (Kaplumbaa), Finnish (Art House), Korean (Kachi Publishing), Swedish (Weyler Förlag), Complex Chinese (Yeren Publishing House), Czech (Grada), Simplified Chinese (New World Press), Japanese (Kashiwa Shobo), Italian (Nottetempo), Spanish (Random House Spain), Norwegian (Flux), Greek (Kastaniotis), Portuguese/Brazil (Ayine)

Translations



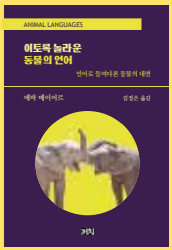




























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