

's-Hertogenbosch held up to the light

ELLE WERNERS

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Motto: 's-Hertogenbosch

The added quotes are from the collection 's-Hertogenboek

Published on behalf of Adr. Heinen/ 1985

Overall care: Coen Free

(Title + first stanza / a small random selection)

From a collection that was published in an edition of 800 numbered copies.

I am in possession of number 515.

ELEVEN

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- On the eleventh of the eleventh in 1944, a child was born in our family. Den Bosch had just been liberated.
- The babies from that period had to deal with major shortages. They suffered from severe nutritional disorders. The hospital was full of these newborns. When my sister was three months old, she looked like a three-week-old child. 'Take them home', they said there. 'Then she can die at home'. With a teaspoon of sugar water per hour, she was dragged through. A fighter!
- The eleventh of the eleventh remains a special day in our family. - Eugénietje was 63 years old. -
- On 11-11-1955 she turned 11
- On 11-11-1966 she turned 22 - On 11-11-1977 she turned 33
- On 11-11-1988 she turned 44 - On 11-11-1999 she was 55...

In 2008 she died suddenly from the fall of a staircase.

On the way to school

The city is a world of its own.

Full of pleasant hustle and bustle, rarely quiet,

A man with violin, flute or guitar,

Nothing is exceptional, it's all possible there.

Karin van Baast

This collection contains a collection of poems and memories that explore the city of 's-Hertogenbosch and personal experiences of the author and others. The work reflects on themes such as youth, loss, family and the urban atmosphere, in which the past and identity of Den Bosch are central.

The author describes the birth of a sister shortly after the liberation of Den Bosch in 1944, emphasizing the difficult circumstances and the significance of the date 11-11 in the family.

Various poems sketch the bustling city life, such as the busy meat market square in the sixties and the musical street artists, which makes the atmosphere and culture of Den Bosch lively.

Reflection is on growing up without something to hold on to, feelings of shame, and the impact of family stories, including sudden death and mourning.

Poems refer to Hieronymus Bosch and St. John's Cathedral, interweaving art and religious symbolism with personal and urban identity.

The Bossche Broek and the polder around the city are described as changing landscapes that illustrate the relationship between nature and urban development.

Attention is paid to the residents of Den Bosch, their character, traditions such as Bossche bollen, and the celebration of the city, which emphasizes the sense of community.

Themes such as strength, respect, sadness and hope are explored, often in short, powerful poems that show the human condition within the urban context.

There is an underlying nostalgia for the youth and old Den Bosch, with a mild reflection on life and death.