

## Lieve Joris – English summary

Lieve Joris, who was born in Belgium and lives in Amsterdam, published widely acclaimed reports of her journeys in the Middle East and Africa, and has written an award-winning book on Hungary.

In 1985 she set sail to the former Belgian colony of Congo, where her great-uncle had been a missionary. Congo became a recurring theme in her work, leading successively to *Back to the Congo*, *Dans van de luipaard* (The Leopard's Dance), *The Rebels' Hour* and *De hoogvlaktes* (The High Plains). *The Rebels' Hour* was nominated for the T.R. Fyvel Book Award. For the French edition of *De hoogvlaktes*, Joris was awarded the Prix Nicolas Bouvier 2009. An extract from *The High Plains* was published in the winter 2009 issue of [The Paris Review](#).

*Mali Blues*, the account of her travels through Senegal, Mauretania and Mali, gained Joris the Belgian triennial award for Flemish prose and the French Prix de l'Astrolabe.

In *Op de vleugels van de draak* (On The Wings of The Dragon), Joris journeys between Africa and China, immersing herself in the world of Africans and Chinese who venture into each other's territory in the slipstream of big business contracts. The book received the VPRO Bob Den Uyl Prize (Best Dutch travel book) 2014.

In her memoir *Terug naar Neerpelt* (Back to Neerpelt, 2018), Joris returns to the Flemish countryside where she grew up as the middle child of a turbulent family of nine. 'She has honored the paradise of her youth and did not steer clear of the snakes,' the Dutch writer Maarten Asscher noted. The French *Le Point* wrote: 'Everything tightens on the dark trajectory of her brother, a seductive, talented and destructive angel. And to everyone's question: how to escape him without abandoning him?'

Joris' books have been translated into English, French, German, Spanish, Catalan, Norwegian, Hungarian and Polish.

*'As deeply reported and directly observed as the very best nonfiction. – PHILIP GOUREVITCH in THE NEW YORKER.COM on The Rebels' Hour*

*'Inside the invisible demi-Holocaust of the Congo. Powerful and brilliant. Highly recommended.'* – HOWARD FRENCH (US) on *The Rebels' Hour*

*'What Lieve Joris does is not so much field research as the literary vivisection of contemporary history.'* – SEPTENTRION (Belgium)

### English translations

*Back to the Congo* (Macmillan London, 1992; Atheneum, New York, 1992)

*The Gates of Damascus* (Lonely Planet, Australia, 1996)

*Mali Blues* (Lonely Planet, Australia, 1998)

*The Rebels' Hour* (Grove-Atlantic US, 2008/Atlantic UK, 2008)

### Links

[Grove Atlantic](#) (US)

[NLPVF](#)

[Review \*The Rebels' Hour\* in The Telegraph](#)

[Interview about \*The Rebels' Hour\* on Fora.tv](#)

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