

Europese Literatuurprijs 2025

Ik gaf je ogen en je keek in de duisternis

Irene Solà – Vertaling Adri Boon

Word of Thanks by Irene Solà

Good evening. I aim to be short.

First of all, I would like to thank Adri Boon, without whom we wouldn't be here. When I finish a novel, I imagine it growing legs and a tail and learning to walk on its own and then it walks off and I say goodbye to it and it starts travelling. It goes to places I've never been, it enters houses I don't know and it meets people that I will probably never meet. When translators rewrite that same book in a new language, they help it grow legs and a tail again and they say farewell to it. Thank you, Adri, for pouring your talent, your work and your curiosity into this book, and for treating it with so much care.

Also, thank you everyone at Cossee. Thank you for believing in the book, and for taking such good care of it. For taking it on very long walks and giving it delicious food and combing its fur and grooming it so that it was ready to take a long stroll all around the Netherlands.

Then I would also like to thank the members of the jury that decided to give *Ik gaf je ogen en je keek in de duisternis* the European Literature Prize. Thank you for choosing it.

I would also like to thank my agents at Casanovas & Lynch, Marina, Maria and María, and my publishers at Anagrama, Isabel, Lluís and Sílvia. *Gràcies*.

When working on a novel, I always learn a lot. I learn about writing, about other books and writers, about myself and about the world. There is solitude in this path, a very precious kind of solitude, but also if you look around, you are at the same time surrounded by those who voluntarily or not, in one way or another, decide to accompany you in the process, and are generous enough to add something to it. So finally, I would also like to thank you all who have been part of it. You know who you are, in most cases, and I prefer to say thanks quietly rather than read your names on stage. Writing, to me, is a quiet matter, or maybe it is quiet outside because the music and the dancing take place inside. But being here today reminds me to be thankful, to keep saying thank you, to say thank you every time I have the opportunity.

So finally, to you who are here tonight and to everyone who is part of the Crossing Border Festival, have a good evening, and thanks again.