

DIRK AYELT KOOIMAN

A lamb to slaughter

Montyn

Author **Dirk Ayelt Kooiman** met artist **Jan Montyn** in Paris in 1979. He asked Montyn what he'd been doing these past years. 'I'll never forget the look Montyn gave me at that moment,' Kooiman said later.

'He coughed and started to talk. It was the most extraordinary life story I'd ever heard. A story with a lot of wars in it. WW II where he'd served in the German navy. The Foreign Legion from which he deserted after the war. The Korean war where he got badly wounded. And the war in Vietnam where he did humanitarian work. And he talked about his life as an artist.'

Kooiman started to record the stories and *A Lamb to Slaughter* was published and an immediate success. It's a deep and haunting book of exceptional skill, a catalogue of strife and bloodshed whose message is peace and hope. An unforgettable literary experience, an unorthodox biography that reads like a novel.

Reprinted eleven times since publication. *Montyn* will be published in Germany by Reclam Leipzig (autumn 2006).

Dirk Ayelt Kooiman (1946) is author of several novels and screenplays, and founder of the literary journal *De Revisor*.

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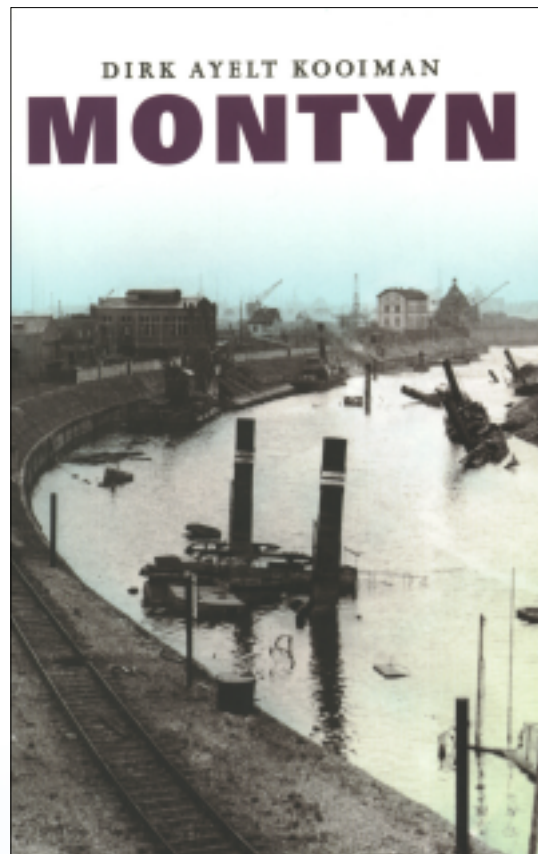
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Reviewers on A Lamb to Slaughter:

'A magnificent book. I would not spent so many words if this was a mediocre book, but *Montyn* is very easy reading and once you've started you cannot stop. A fascinating story, brimful of experiences. A story moreover, which is set in the controversial world of those Dutch boys that joined the Germans in fighting the Russians at the Eastern Front.'

De Tijd

'*Montyn* is a book you can't put down, that cannot be denied. Whether this is to be regarded as compliment is an open question.' *Groene Amsterdammer*

'The book reads as if Montyn had written it himself: it is an account containing facts, thoughts, feelings, which can only occur to someone who has experienced all these things himself. Much of this Jan Montyn may have told Kooiman, but it is impossible to express one's own feelings and thoughts so precisely.' *Vrij Nederland*

'This skillfull book, in the form of frame story, is a 'factional' biography of the life of engraver and painter Jan Montyn. (...) A confronting book, but also a very fine novel which will please any reader that loves literature, but also appreciates a good story.'

Boekengids

'The book reads like an adventure story, a boys book almost, but is first of all a bewildering egodocument that emphasizes the madness and disastrous effects of war.'

Het Parool

'Enough agony and adventure for a dozen lives packed into a fastpaced, breathless, often gripping book.'

Kirkus

'This war story, with its unusual perspective, is fascinating. The air is thick with fear, disillusionment and defeat, broken by occasional rays of exceptional kindness.'

Columbus Weekender

