

Tiny Mulder

Thin Ice

Resistance under occupation, witnessed by a teenage girl

Collaborate, accommodate or resist – in occupied territories ordinary people confront this moral dilemma. In *Thin Ice* an adolescent girl describes the choices made by her and the people around her in the occupied Netherlands during the Second World War. The novel depicts the frightening and often heroic consequences of those decisions, while at the same time everyday life goes on as usual.

Klaske Jagersma is fourteen when the war becomes a reality even inside the family home. Her parents decide to take in a Jewish girl, Anneke, to save her from deportation. Further secret guests follow as the Jagersma household becomes a refuge for those who have gone into hiding and for downed Allied pilots. Moreover, Klaske herself, after the example of her older sister Dineke, becomes involved with the resistance. Teenage girls do not quickly arouse suspicion, so she is able to make an important contribution.

Klaske, the narrator of the story, takes a full part in events, but she is also the sober,

sometimes even ironic spectator. Her observations and comments enable us to feel the psychological tension that events create in those involved. The choices made turn out to have their unpredictable sides. The adolescent Klaske secretly finds the danger she faces in her underground activities attractive. No less unforeseen is that her mother feels as if she is handing over a child of her own when she returns Anneke to her real parents after the war.

Even more than adventure and heroism, *Thin Ice* is about uncertainty and anxiety. The central characters value human empathy above dogma and ideology.

Tiny Mulder works her own memories of the war into the novel. She too was active in the Dutch resistance and her parents hid people in the house. Her intention in writing *Thin Ice* was to reach young people in particular, but the novel was read by many adults and grew to become one of the most highly rated books ever written in the Frisian language. It was reprinted five times and also published in Dutch.



Publishing details

Tin iis (1981, 6th edition 2014)
305 pp., 101,320 words

Publisher

Elikser
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Translation

Gevaarlijk ijs (Noordboek, 2003)

‘Tiny Mulder writes from the inside about what life in wartime meant for ordinary people, who also faced a dilemma.’

– *Leeuwarder Courant*

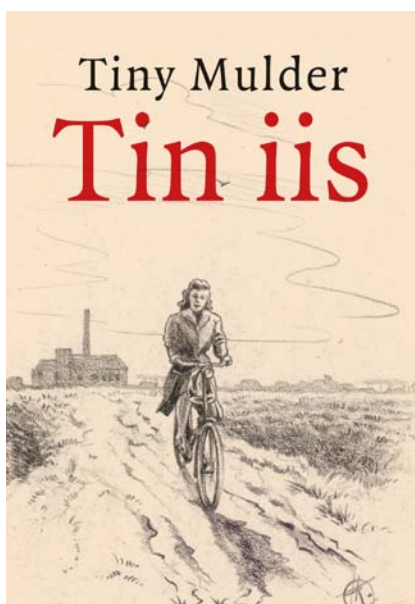
‘[The people in this book] do what they have to do. Without any fuss. That’s what the book is about. A very good book. For precisely that reason.’

– *Trotwaer*

‘The more you read, the more exciting the book becomes [...]. I often wanted to get to the end of the chapter before I went to bed.’

– A secondary school pupil (4th grade) on www.scholieren.com

Photo: Henk Kuiper



Starting with her debut *Orange Umbrella* in 1962, journalist and reviewer **Tiny Mulder** (1921-2010) made her name as a poet with a highly individual voice. She also wrote and translated children’s books, radio plays and stage plays. Her first novel, *Thin Ice*, was published in 1981. In 1986 she was awarded the Gysbert Japicx Prize, the most important Frisian literary award, for her oeuvre as a whole.