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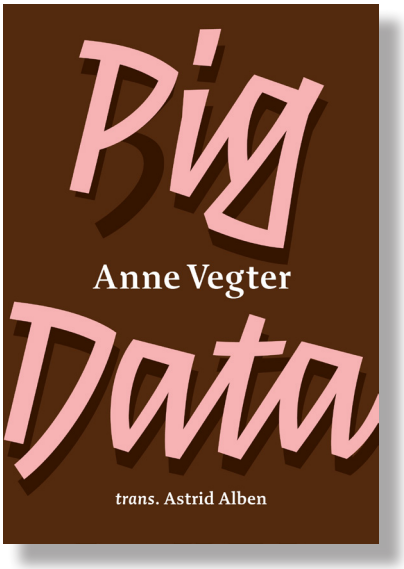

Pig Data

Anne Vegter

trans. Astrid Alben

A ground-breaking work of contemporary Dutch poetry by the former Poet Laureate

Anne Vegter's *Pig Data*, winner of the the Ida Gerhardt Poetry Prize, exposes the raw nerves of power and desire.

The collection orchestrates a mythic and historical collision between three formidable figures – the South African poet Ingrid Jonker, the mythical witch Medea, and a provocative poetic 'I' (evoking the trope of the 'scorned woman') – to interrogate the male gaze and the transformative potential of female rage.

Vegter's poems tease language to its limit, with a restless energy that is dynamic, vicious and vulgar, infused with humour and absurdist overtones, brought to life through Astrid Alben's virtuosic translation.

Pig Data fearlessly rebuffs the comforts of traditional form, revelling in contradictions, moving between a luminous tenderness and vulgar, incoherent urgency.

ANNE VEGTER is the author of numerous poetry collections, children's books, theatre monologues and erotic stories. Her first poetry collection, *Het veerde*, appeared in 1991, followed in 1994 by *Ongekuiste versies*, a book of erotic tales. Since then, she has published widely across genres. Her work is characterised by an elastic style that is playful, erotic, enigmatic and disturbing.

Vegter regularly works as a performer, collaborating with composers and musicians. She has received numerous awards for children's literature, theatre and poetry, including the Woutertje Pieterse Prize, the Awater Poetry Prize, the Anna Blaman Prize, and the Ida Gerhardt Poetry Prize. In 2013, she became the first woman to be named Poet Laureate of the Netherlands, a role she held until 2017.

Prototype published Astrid Alben's translation of Vegter's collection *Island mountain glacier* in 2022, winner of an English PEN Translates award. *Pig Data* was awarded the Ida Gerhardt Poetry Prize for best collection.

ASTRID ALBEN is a poet, editor and translator. She is the author of *Ai! Ai! Pianissimo*, *Plainspeak* and *Little Dead Rabbit*, which was self-translated and published as *Klein dood konijn* by PoëzieCentrum. Her poetry and non-fiction have appeared in journals including *Granta* and the *Times Literary Supplement*. She has worked with BBC Radio, the Serpentine Gallery and Wellcome Collection, and with performance and animation.

For press enquiries please contact jess@prototypepublishing.co.uk

10 Sept 2026 **RRP £12.99** **Paperback, 96pp.** **ISBN: 978-1-913513-91-7**

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‘*Pig Data* is a visceral and fury-driven tableau of violence and vulnerability that asks us to travel through and inhabit a triptych of portraits of vengeance and desire. This is a perfectly-sculpted book, as immersive as an installation, often harnessing, and sometimes running to their limits, the overspills of terror. It’s also a book full of humour, and sudden stabs of absolute tenderness.’

– Deryn Rees-Jones

‘A poetic fire born of fury. Language as lethal as it is tender. Here, a scorned wife transforms hurt into triumphant, ancestral self-reliance and fantastic humor. There is much delight in this revenge!’

– Antjie Krog

‘In Anne Vegter’s *Pig Data*, anger is transformed into a powerful and inquisitive voice like it has never sounded before. Vegter’s linguistic universe is unique. She knows how to use language to seduce, comfort, surround and carve out a place of her own. Vegter knows how to make contradictions her strength and blows the reader away with swings between tenderness and rage, hesitation and wisdom.’

– Jury Report, Ida Gerhardt Poetry Prize

‘Tumultuous work, in which the chaos can scarcely be tamed and much is possible that would not work in more concentrated poetry. Vegter’s later books make it evident that the poetic principle of free and idiosyncratic use of language forms the basis of everything she writes.’

– T. van Deel in *Trouw*

‘Humour is never far away and the energetic will to live is the ultimate answer to all the reflective questions we pose ourselves in relation to the transience of everything.’

– Jan Pollet

‘Vegter writes daring, personal poetry that sometimes teases language to the limit. One time her poems may consist of complex chess configurations, whereas at other times the poet can be trite, incoherent or even vulgar. It all contributes to the stimulating, grating feeling that someone is getting too close to you.’

– Ron Rijghard in *NRC Handelsblad*

ABOUT PROTOTYPE

Founded in 2019, Prototype is a publisher of fiction, poetry, anthologies and interdisciplinary projects. With an emphasis on producing unique and beautiful books, we are committed to creating new possibilities in publishing and championing the work of new and established voices in contemporary literature.

Recent prose titles include *Girlbeast* by Cecilie Lind (tr. Hazel Evans), *Fair: The life-Art of Translation* and *Vehicle* by Jen Calleja, *The Seers* by Sulaiman Addonia, longlisted for the RSL Ondaatje Prize and Republic of Consciousness Prize, *Prairie, Dresses, Art, Other* by Danielle Dutton, longlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize, and *Lori & Joe* by Amy Arnold, shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize. Recent titles from House Sparrow Press, an imprint of Prototype, include a facsimile edition of Derek Jarman’s only poetry collection, *A Finger in the Fishes Mouth*, which has long been unavailable.

Other recent poetry collections include *rock flight* by Hasib Hourani, a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, Imogen Cassels’ accalimed debut collection *Silk Work*, and Bhanu Kapil’s *Incubation: a space for monsters*, in its first UK edition. Previously, we published *Journeys Across Breath,* the first volume of collected poems by Stephen Watts, and Lucy Mercer’s debut collection *Emblem*, which was the Poetry Book Society’s Summer Choice for 2022, and Lavinia Singer’s collection *Artifice*.

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