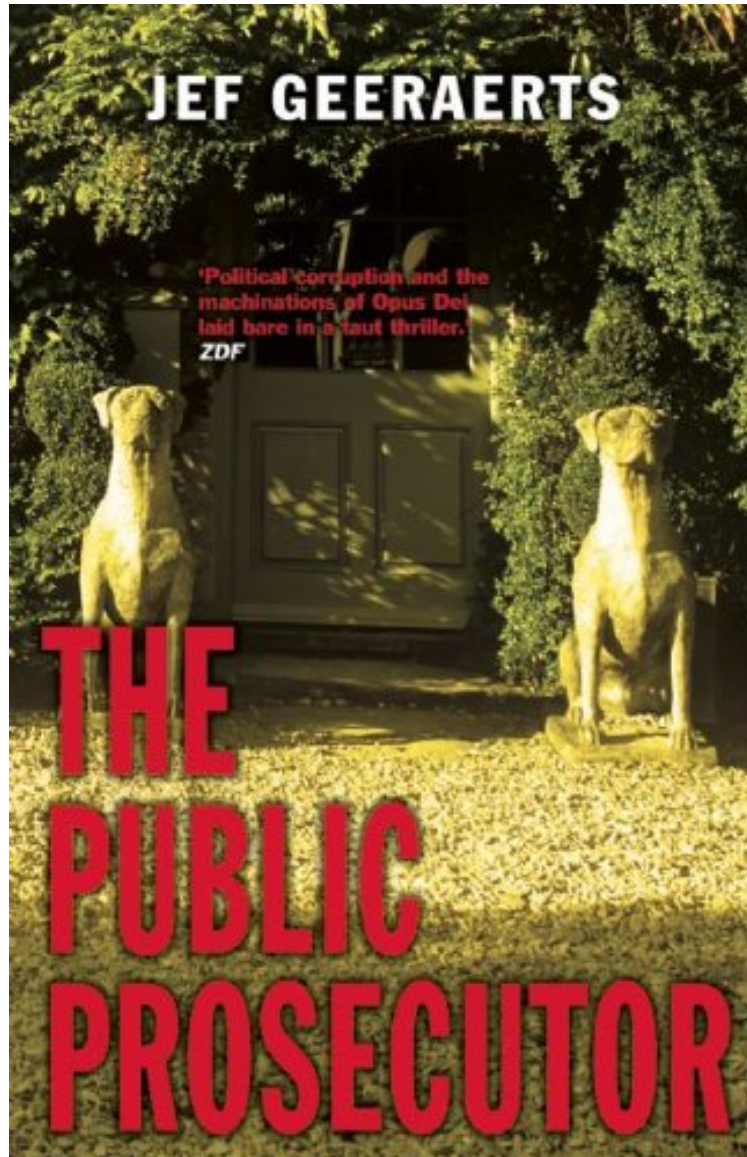


(Download ebook) The Public Prosecutor

The Public Prosecutor

Jef Geeraerts

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Jef Geeraerts : The Public Prosecutor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Public Prosecutor:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. great psychological suspenseBy A CustomerAffluent Albert Savelkoul seems to live a near perfect life as the public prosecutor of Antwerp. He is affluent and influential due in part to the right marriage although his deeply religious wife Baroness Marie-Amandine de Vreux d'Alembourg detests

him. His mistress Louise is beautiful and kind though he is considering a maid for that position. Finally he has a secret Swiss bank account concealed even from his spouse in which Albanian drug dealers donate in exchange for magically changing heroin into talc. His wife arranges with the Opus Dei to destroy Albert. She gives them insider information that they use to blackmail the suddenly beleaguered Albert. The powerful Catholic group demands a cut starting with any inheritance he planned for his offspring. They also easily get into his Zurich account and wipe that out. Opus Dei operatives raise the ante further as they try to break Albert. He prays to God to allow him and his love to safely flee Belgium for Scotland. The premise behind this great psychological suspense is that a big fish in a small pond can be eaten alive by a bigger fish. Thus corrupt Albert makes the thriller work as he goes from affluence to stomp upon roach rather quickly when someone more powerful sends him back to the masses as another nonentity. Fans will relish this deep character driven tale of corruption and back stabbing as the norm especially for one climbing up the ladder of affluence and influence only to be thrown down by someone higher up. Jef Geeraerts provides a powerful indictment of western civilization circa 1999 as a "Bitter Lemon" whether it is Belgium, Scotland, or the United States. Harriet Klausner 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Darkly Humorous High Jinks in Antwerp By Fearor Arch and knowing books are, thankfully, not a dime a dozen, but Jef Geeraerts's *The Public Prosecutor* is one such. Geeraerts doesn't have much time for organised religion, I gather from this fable, or for money-grubbing men or women, most of whom end up perishing in some gruesome fashion or the other. The protagonist of this parody of the paranoid thriller genre is the Public Prosecutor of Antwerp, a man who owes his position to his wife's noble family. He leads the usual life of an alpha male - he has a beautiful young mistress; his wealth does not stop him from seeking more; and, of course, he detests his wife, and hardly has any time for his sons. The wife is a deeply religious Catholic who wants one of her sons to enter Opus Dei, the usual villain in books involving religious skullduggery, and to that end is willing to sacrifice everything, including her husband. There are other unsavoury Opus Dei operatives with connections at the highest reaches of power - both financial and administrative - and there are sundry criminals out for revenge. None of the characters has any redeeming qualities but the Prosecutor, harried and hassled, ends up being strangely sympathetic. This is so earnest a book I cannot imagine Geeraerts wasn't grinning ironically all the while he was writing it; good fun.

"A splendid reminder of the virtues of the traditional novel, this work tackles the territory of Balzac and Zola, not just in the solidity of its construction and characters, but in its readiness to tackle corruption in church and state." - *The Independent, UK* "In contrast with Mankell, the warm-hearted psychologist of the individual, we find Geeraerts, a cold-blooded surgeon who lays bare the ills of a society. This thriller, so loyal to the genre that the irony and parody are barely perceptible, is relentless." - *Tagesspiegel Berlin* "One of Geeraerts' literary achievements is that such an arrogant and baroque character as Savelkoul ends up attracting your sympathy. A revealing study of a very dark society." - *Facts Zurich* "Geeraerts exposes the mechanics of corruption, the abuse of power, political cynicism and the excesses triggered by religious delusion." - *ZDF* Albert Savelkoul, the public prosecutor of Antwerp, has power, money, an aristocratic wife, and a high-maintenance mistress. A wonderful life—until Opus Dei takes a less than benevolent interest in it. In the course of this subversive psychological thriller, the shameless, slippery Albert becomes an almost-lovable, desperate victim of a power structure controlled by effete aristocrats, a corrupt judiciary, and ultra-right fanatics of the Catholic church. Jef Geeraerts, born in 1930 in Antwerp, was much admired by Henry Miller and is Belgium's best-known author after Georges Simenon. He was educated in Jesuit schools and spent time as a colonial administrator and army officer in the Belgian Congo. He gained international acclaim with his *Gangrene Cycle*, four novels based on his experience in the Congo. Since then he has focused on crime and noir novels, of which *The Public Prosecutor* is the first to be published in English.

From *Publishers Weekly* Set in Belgium in 1999, Geeraerts's first novel to be made available in English will disappoint those expecting any distinctively Belgian content. Harvard-educated Albert Savelkoul, who's fascinated by J. Edgar Hoover's private life, has risen to the prestigious position of public prosecutor for Antwerp's Court of Appeal, despite having been caught patronizing a prostitute by a police vice squad. He has also engaged in covert acts of corruption, such as assisting Albanian drug dealers escape conviction in exchange for a substantial payoff. When the Belgian representative of Opus Dei, the sinister organization of choice for modern thriller writers, targets Savelkoul for blackmail, the police, after learning of the plot, have their own reasons not to help the prosecutor. While Geeraerts is his country's best-known writer after Georges Simenon, the book suffers from languid pacing and unsympathetic characters. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. A "In contrast with Mankell, the warm-hearted psychologist of the individual, we find Geeraerts, a cold-blooded surgeon who lays bare the ills of a society. This thriller, so loyal to the genre that the irony and parody are barely perceptible, is relentless. The machinations of Opus Dei and dubious financial manoeuvres are deftly juxtaposed with descriptions of fine restaurants and nids d'amour." *Tagesspiegel Berlin* A "One of Geeraerts literary achievements is that such a shameless and baroque character as Savelkoul ends up attracting your sympathy as you read on. A revealing study of a very dark society." *Facts Zurich* A "Geeraerts exposes the mechanics of corruption, the abuse of power, political

cynicism and the excesses triggered by religious delusion. His novels are often at the centre of political scandal. A" ZDF About the Author Jef Geeraerts, an author much admired by Henry Miller, was born in 1930 in Antwerp and is Belgium's best known author after Georges Simenon. He was educated in Jesuit schools, spent time as a colonial administrator and army officer in the Belgian Congo. He gained international acclaim with his Gangrene Cycle, four novels based on his experience in the Congo. Brian Doyle is a well known translator from the Dutch and lives in Belgium.