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(Picture of front cover)

'Call You Right Back, Mum' goes worldwide

From our reporter

Hoorn, the Netherlands * Some 20,000 copies have been sold by now of the Dutch book 'Mam, ik bel je zo terug'. Now an English translation of the book by Wanda Beemsterboer is available, entitled 'Call You Right Back, Mum'.

The English version of her real life story about the murder of her daughter Nadine ten years ago will be presented on Wednesday 28 September in the newly built and latest prison in the Netherlands, located in Zaanstad near Amsterdam. King Willem Alexander is to officially open this penitentiary institution on September 6. Frans Douw, former prison warden, will bring 'Call You Right Back Mum' to the attention of the American public in the radio programme 'The Prison Show'. Contact has also been established with a publishing house in Great Britain.

English version: 'Call You Right Back, Mum'

Leo van Gelderen

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Continued from front page Hoorn * After the murder of her daughter Nadine, which happened ten years ago, Wanda Beemsterboer wrote the book 'Mam, ik bel je zo terug'. By now the tenth edition is in print. However, the book is about to go international. On September 28, the English version entitled 'Call You Right Back Mum' is to be launched in the newly built prison in Zaanstad, the Netherlands. Annemiek van den Bosch is responsible for the translation. In Wanda's home they both explain how all this came about.

Wanda: "Particularly my husband Jacques often gives lectures based upon my book, also at the request of the Department of Justice, in prisons throughout the Netherlands. In this way we hope to establish a connection with perpetrators in order to contribute to the prevention of recurrence." She emphasizes: "Without losing sight of the victims' side of the story, of course."

They both received many requests from prisoners for an English version of the book. Wanda: "I was aware that a book translation would be a very costly exercise, so I never pursued the matter, until one day I ran into Eric de Haan. I did not know he was a brother-in-law to Annemiek van den Bosch. Eric and I were both ambassadors at the national Aid Workers Day. I mentioned to him that it would be so great to have an English translation of my book but that this would probably remain a dream."

Annemiek: "Eric gave me the book as a Christmas present and told me to read it. It made a profound impression on me. Through him, I also knew about Wanda's wish. I am a translator. At a certain point, I just picked up the phone and called her. Immediately, we were on the same page."

They both emphasize that this instant connection they felt was key to the whole process. "It is an intense and intimate process that can only work if there is 100% trust on both sides", says Annemiek. "I am a translator but I had never translated a book before. I just knew I could do it. Nadine had

gotten under my skin. Moreover, the whole project matches my attitude in life, to not always wait until somebody else takes action. At home I received the full support of my family, but others asked me many times 'What are you getting into? You do not even know whether it is going to be published yet.' Sometimes you just have to make a start. In the end I also decided that all the proceeds of the translated version will go directly to the Nadine Foundation. "

Wanda: "My publisher Frits Poiesz decided to give the project the green light. That was a very special and emotional moment. Not only is it a wonderful idea to have the actual translation, but during the whole process, the contact with Annemiek has become very precious to me too. "

We do not know yet what the future holds in store for the translated version of the book. Not only will the book reach prison libraries, but it will also go worldwide now.

PRESENTATION 'CALL YOU RIGHT BACK' IN NEW PRISON

"The mere thought! As I said before, I hope my book will connect people. For that reason we chose to organize the book launch at the new prison. The first copy will be handed to Peter Hennephof, Head of the Dutch Prison Service. He will represent the 'side of the perpetrators'. To represent the 'side of the victims' we have invited Linda Terpstra and the Board of Directors of Fier. This organisation saves girls from the clutches of loverboys'."

(Picture)

Annemiek van den Bosch (left) and Wanda Beemsterboer: "Immediately, we were on the same page."

Photograph by Marcel Rob

Translated by Annemiek van den Bosch