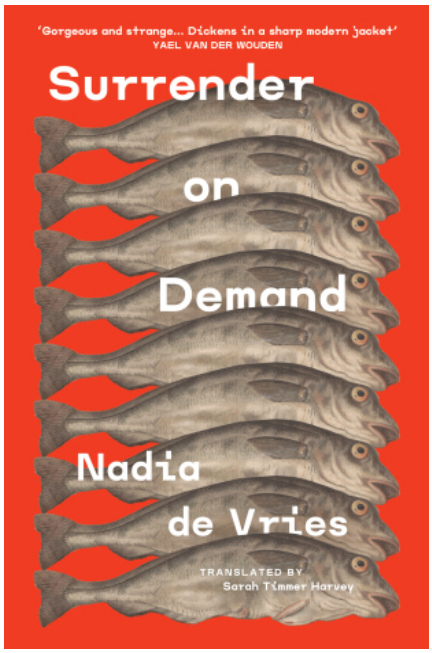
VERVE BOOKS



SURRENDER ON DEMAND

NADIA DE VRIES

Translated by SARAH TIMMER HARVEY

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MARKETING & SALES POINTS

A biting tale about class and destiny told through an endearing anti-hero named Shellfish. Set in the Netherlands, the novel is inspired by the author's desire to write a literary novel set in her hometown

For fans of *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, *The Melting* by Lize Split and *Paradise Rot* by Jenny Hval

A modern day Dickens, fans of *Surrender on Demand* include Yael van der Wouden, the Women\'s Prize-winning author of *The Safekeep*

VERVE are collaborating with Bloomsbury US for a spring 2027 English language release; the book has also been translated into German (DuMont, October 2026), Danish (Jensen & Dalgaard, translator TBC) and Turkish (Ayabakan, translator TBC)

Dutch language edition (Pluim) shortlisted for the prestigious Libris Literature Prize 2026 and for De Inktaap 2026. The book was also longlisted for the Boekenbon Literature Prize 2025

THE BOOK

Shellfish grows up in a Dutch coastal village polluted by the local steel plant. The factory or the distribution centre: these are the choices ahead. Both are work in places without windows, dictated by the clock. But Shellfish dreams of a different future: to no longer serve, but be a master.

Will Shellfish succeed in breaking free? If we cannot outgrow the circumstances we were born in, does that mean we've failed at life?

***Surrender on Demand* is about the difference between people who get to choose their future and those who have to suffer their fate. About villagers and day-trippers. About casual violence. And about seagulls. A carnivalesque, satirical, intense, big, small novel about class and destiny.**

PRAISE FOR *SURRENDER ON DEMAND*

'Get ready to fall in love with De Vries's playful pen and unrelenting view of mankind. *Surrender on Demand* is gorgeous and strange and somehow familiarly human; Dickens in a sharp modern jacket' - **Yael van der Wouden, author of *The Safekeep***

'De Vries writes flawlessly, humorously and with restraint and precision. This applies to every sentence, every chapter and everything that happens in this compact, yet grand novel' - ***Trouw* (the Netherlands)**

'A very dark novel that is at the same time remarkably light and funny, like a contemporary version of a Dickensian story' - ***De Volkskrant* (the Netherlands)**

'You don't need more than 160 pages to create an entire universe' - ***HUMO* (Belgium)**

NADIA DE VRIES



Nadia de Vries is a bilingual author based in Amsterdam. Originally published as *Overgave op commando* in 2025 in the Netherlands, *Surrender on Demand* was shortlisted for the Libris Literature Prize, the most prestigious award for Dutch literature. De Vries also writes poetry in English. Her collected works, *All My Dead Jesters*, were published by Tenement Press in 2026. *Surrender on Demand* is her U.S. prose debut.

Sarah Timmer Harvey is a writer and translator based in Woodstock, New York. Her translations include Jente Posthuma's International Booker Prize-shortlisted *What I'd Rather Not Think About*. She holds an MFA from Columbia University.