

EKEBY

MARC WAGENBACH

Volume I of A Trilogy of Forgotten Dreams

15 OCTOBER 2026

Netherlands & Belgium

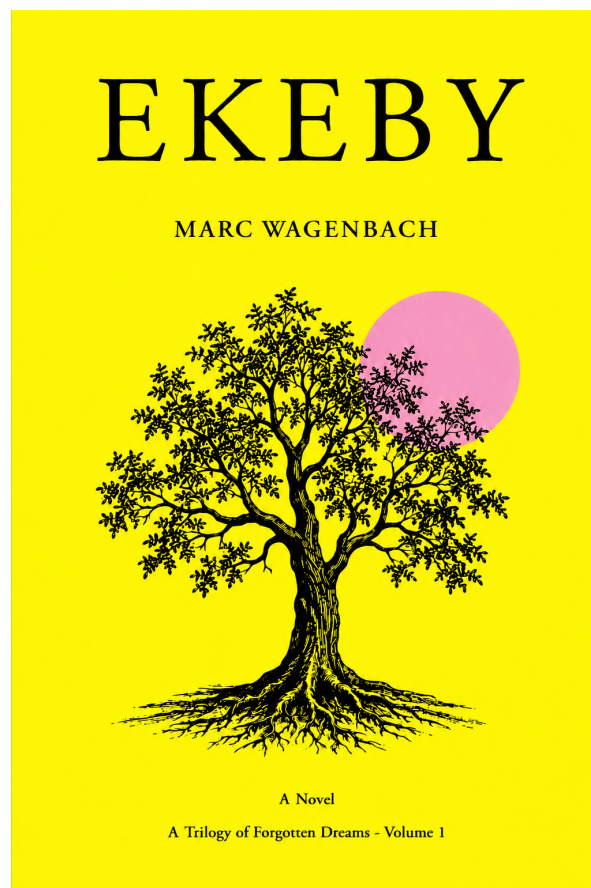
Dutch · English · German

Ekeby is about a dreamer who has lost his ability to dream.

What do we need to remember to dream again?

THE HOUSE OF MR WHO

Books for another feeling of the world.



New The Hague-based publisher The House of Mr Who launches its first novel Ekeby in three languages

A novel about forgotten dreams, hidden histories and the question of what we need to remember to dream again.

On 15 October 2026, Ekeby by Marc Wagenbach will be published in the Netherlands and Belgium. It is the first publication from The House of Mr Who, a new independent literary publisher based in The Hague, and the first volume of A Trilogy of Forgotten Dreams. The novel will be published simultaneously in Dutch, English and German.

At its heart, Ekeby is about a dreamer who has lost his ability to dream.

Max Grünbaum returns to Ekeby, an old house at the edge of the forest, searching for peace and a new beginning. But forgotten dreams and voices begin to return. When Lea van Hoorn appears at the door asking about her missing grandfather, a long-hidden history begins to surface. The novel moves between present and past, memory and dream, the IJssel Valley, Batavia and Berlin. Ekeby, the house at the edge of the forest, becomes a space of resonance and the heart of the trilogy. Different times, voices and family histories converge there into a past that continues to shape the present. The IJssel Valley appears not merely as a setting, but as a landscape where Dutch, German and European histories meet.

Behind it lies a broader question of our time: what happens when the world that shaped us loses its familiar form and we realise that we are no longer who we were? The trilogy's central question is: What do we need to remember to dream again? In Ekeby, memory becomes a question of the future as much as of the past.

With The House of Mr Who, Wagenbach is developing a publishing practice for literature that moves between languages, memories, identities and unknown futures. Around the publication, the world of Ekeby also extends beyond the book, through short videos about characters and themes, performative projects centred on figures such as Frau Holle, local events and content exploring dreams and the Rauhnächte. Together, these elements form a practice of transmedia storytelling that unfolds from October to January.

BOOK DETAILS

TITLE	Ekeby
AUTHOR	Marc Wagenbach
SERIES	A Trilogy of Forgotten Dreams - Volume I
PUBLICATION	15 October 2026
TERRITORY	Netherlands & Belgium
LANGUAGES	Dutch · English · German
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	German
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ENGLISH TRANSLATION	Nancy du Plessis
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Ekeby

Volume 1 of A Trilogy of Forgotten Dreams

50-WORD DESCRIPTION

Max Grünbaum returns to Ekeby, an old house at the edge of the forest, hoping for peace and a new beginning. But forgotten dreams and voices return. When Lea van Hoorn arrives looking for her missing grandfather, a long-hidden history begins to surface.

120-WORD DESCRIPTION

Max Grünbaum has returned to Ekeby, the old house at the edge of the forest where he hoped to begin again. Instead, forgotten dreams and voices start to return. When Lea van Hoorn appears at the door asking about her missing grandfather, a long-hidden history begins to surface. Moving between the IJssel Valley, Berlin and Batavia, and between different times, voices and family histories, Ekeby explores what remains of the past in the present. At its heart is a man who has lost his ability to dream - and a larger question: what do we need to remember to dream again? **Ekeby is Volume 1 of A Trilogy of Forgotten Dreams.**

CORE PROPOSITION

Ekeby asks what happens when we lose the ability to imagine a different future. The novel connects a queer present with European and colonial history and allows different times and voices to speak at once. History appears not as something finished, but as something that continues to live in houses, bodies and memories.

KEY THEMES

- Dreaming and future imagination
- Memory, family history and hidden histories
- Polyphony and competing forms of truth
- Queer perspectives and unstable identities
- European and colonial histories
- Landscape, place and the house as a resonant space

SETTINGS

The IJssel Valley · Berlin · Batavia · Ekeby, the house at the edge of the forest

A novel that seduces us to dream again

Its relevance lies in how it asks us to think about identity, history and the future when older, singular narratives no longer hold.

THE CRISIS OF FUTURE IMAGINATION

Max has lost his ability to dream. His individual crisis opens onto a collective question: what happens when we can no longer imagine a future that is different from the present? In Ekeby, dreaming is not escapism, but a capacity to see possibility.

IDENTITY AS BECOMING

Identity is not presented as fixed. The novel's queer gaze is attentive to transitions, unstable identities, forgotten lives and forms of kinship that fall outside inherited categories.

THE PAST IS NOT OVER

Family memory, European history and colonial history do not sit neatly beside one another. They overlap and continue to act through places, bodies, language, guilt and memory.

NO SINGLE VOICE OWNS THE TRUTH

Memory is uncertain and perspectives shift. Dream, historical transmission, humour and apparent reality coexist. Polyphony is not only a theme of the novel, but one of its formal principles.

A CONCISE JOURNALISTIC ANGLE

Ekeby does not simply tell history. It lets different histories speak at the same time. Perhaps that is why it is a novel for our moment: it asks not only who we once were, but what might still become possible from everything that has been forgotten.

Marc Wagenbach

Writer · Publisher · Researcher

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Marc Wagenbach (PhD) is a writer, publisher and researcher. His work has moved for more than twenty-five years between literature, performance, artistic research, living archives and cultural heritage. He worked with Pina Bausch and Tanztheater Wuppertal and holds a PhD in Media Studies and Aesthetics from the University of Cologne. In 2026, he founded The House of Mr Who in The Hague.

EXTENDED BIOGRAPHY

Marc Wagenbach (PhD) is a writer, publisher and researcher whose practice moves between literature, performance, artistic research, living archives and cultural heritage. For more than twenty-five years, he has worked across dance, theatre, archives, cultural theory and artistic research, including with Pina Bausch and Tanztheater Wuppertal. He studied Theatre, Film and Television Studies, Musicology and Classical Archaeology and received his PhD in Media Studies and Aesthetics from the University of Cologne. In 2026, he founded The House of Mr Who, an independent literary publisher in The Hague. His current literary project, A Trilogy of Forgotten Dreams, begins with Ekeby.

AUTHOR STATEMENT

Why do I tell stories?

Not just to become visible. Nor because I believe my own experience has some special value.

But because I sense something for which there is no language yet - or that no one wants to talk about. A truth that travels through us without having found a place. Something that wants to emerge from the darkness and shine.

I tell stories to give this truth a place. A home for what we already feel but do not yet know how to say.

This is my Archaeology of Feeling.

PRACTICE

Wagenbach describes his approach as an Archaeology of Feeling: not only asking what happened, but what of it still lives in us. In Ekeby, the house, the garden, the walnut tree, bodies, dreams and voices become carriers of what has not disappeared.

Interview topics

Seven routes into the book, the publishing house and the wider project

What do we need to remember to dream again?

Dreaming as a capacity to imagine a future rather than as an escape from reality.

Why publish one novel in three languages at once?

The multilingual launch as a practical expression of a European literary house that works between languages rather than treating translation as an afterthought.

The IJssel Valley as a European in-between

How landscape carries Dutch, German and wider European histories and becomes more than a backdrop.

A queer gaze on history

Queerness as a way of seeing transitions, ambiguity, overlooked lives and relationships that do not fit inherited categories.

From living archives to fiction

How Wagenbach's work in performance, artistic research and archives feeds a literary practice concerned with what remains after events disappear.

Polyphony as form

Why the novel allows different times, memories and voices to coexist without resolving them into a single truth.

Founding a literary publisher in 2026

Why create The House of Mr Who now, and what does 'Books for another feeling of the world' mean as a publishing practice?

KEY LINES

- Ekeby is about a dreamer who has lost his ability to dream.
- What do we need to remember to dream again?
- Books for another feeling of the world

The House of Mr Who

Books for another feeling of the world

The House of Mr Who is an independent literary publisher based in The Hague. Founded in 2026, it publishes books that open up other ways of feeling the world. Its list moves between languages, memories, identities, queer perspectives and unknown futures. The house begins with Ekeby, published simultaneously in Dutch, English and German, and develops a multilingual European publishing practice across literature, memory, artistic research and cultural heritage.

BEYOND THE BOOK

Around the publication, the world of Ekeby extends beyond the novel through short videos about characters and themes, performative projects centred on figures such as Frau Holle, local events and content exploring dreams and the Rauhnächte. Together, these elements form a practice of transmedia storytelling that unfolds from October to January.

PRESS & REVIEW COPIES

Review copies, interview requests, cover art and image material: contact@thehouseofmrwho.eu

ONLINE

thehouseofmrwho.eu · Instagram [@thehouseofmrwho](https://www.instagram.com/thehouseofmrwho)

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