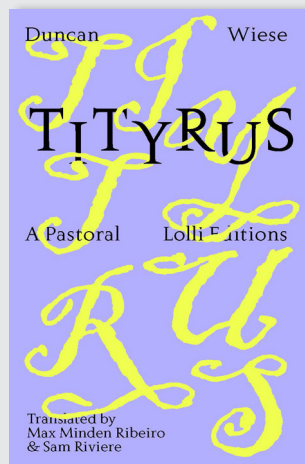


# TITYRUS

## by Duncan Wiese

Translated from Danish by  
Max Minden Ribeiro and Sam Riviere



**Duncan Wiese updates the pastoral for the 21st century. In *Tityrus*, the countryside offers a less than ideal lifestyle for a young shepherd**

The ideals of simple country living have captivated poets for a crow's age. But in the countryside that Tityrus knows, the beech trees tower like skyscrapers, mice wrestle each other, and the nearby island is infected by swarms of gulls. The forest is a source of energy, but also the home of a behemoth transformer substation and where a little boy has drowned. The shepherds are prescribed Ritalin, slip in the mud, cry without knowing why, and sustain themselves on mini pizza rolls.

Wiese's poetry is as hilarious as it is gentle, moving gracefully between the everyday and the profound. Building with the narrative quality of a novel, *Tityrus* is both an elegy to a natural world that has long been overindustrialised, and a love letter to all that remains.

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**DUNCAN WIESE** (b. 1991) is a Danish poet and a graduate of the Danish Academy of Creative Writing, where he now teaches. He is the author of two poetry books, and his debut, *Tityrus*, was shortlisted for the prestigious Bodil and Jørgen Munch-Christensen Prize and the Bogforum Prize for new writing. He lives in Funen.

**MAX MINDEN RIBEIRO** is a literary translator and academic philosopher. His recent publications include Pelle Hvenegaard's *Dear Zoe Ukhona* and *Finn Juhl: Life, Work, World* by Christian Bunde-gaard. He lives in Copenhagen.

**SAM RIVIERE** is the author of three poetry books: *81 Austerities*, *Kim Kardashian's Marriage*, and *After Fame*, and most recently a novel, *Dead Souls* (2021).



### Praise for *TITYRUS*

»Wiese's subversive pastoral shows how fraught life has become for the Arcadian shepherds among us. Refusing to sugarcoat Tityrus's experience of our fetid and worn-out world, Wiese uncovers the daily pathos and absurdities of contemporary life. This spare yet encompassing verse narrative, deftly translated by Ribeiro and Riviere, provides an insightful and haunting portrait of our time.«  
– Denise Newman

»A pastoral where the shepherd not only grazes his sheep, but also himself, the human – where human and animal overlap in a current of medicine, food, myth, alcohol – and love. So right on time is *Tityrus*.«  
– Ursula Andkjær Olsen

»I lost myself in this bittersweet sequence and it already feels like a place I've visited, a life I stowed-away in beyond the poems. A voice so compulsively readable, both tersely clear and compellingly mysterious that it gets into your head and starts narrating your own life.«  
– Luke Kennard

»Pastoral life becomes a matter of a delicate, organic-minded consciousness, a discussion of agricultural ethics and its capitalist principles, a hope for the future and a sensitive, youthful emotional life.«  
– ATLAS

»Surprising, funny, utterly contemporary.«  
– Politiken