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<b>Titel</b>	I have no thoughts and this is one of them
<b>Jaar</b>	2006
<b>Uitvoering</b>	

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TINE VAN AERSCHOT

I

HAVE

NO THOUGHTS

AND THIS IS

ONE OF THEM

De Nieuwe Toneelbibliotheek, Tekst #111  
© 2006, Tine Van Aerschot  
First printing, 2012

ISBN 978-94-6076-111-9  
NUR 307

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TINE VAN AERSCHOT

I HAVE NO  
THOUGHTS  
AND THIS IS  
ONE OF THEM

DE NIEUWE  
TONEELBIBLIOTHEEK

I have no thoughts and this is one of them.

I will never befriend a penguin.

I will not be bitten by a snake.

I will not be struck by lightning.

I will not be touched by God.

I will not be a matchmaker's match.

I do not have to be traded for livestock.

I do not have to take part in any rituals.

I do not have to wear traditional tattoos.

I do not have to chant for rain.

I will not chant for luck and riches.

I will not offer food, incense, small, medium or large animals.

I will not lose control.

I will not be responsible.

I do not want to support ignorance.

I will never dress up for dinner.

I do not have to follow in the footsteps of others.

I will never cross the ocean in a tiny boat.

I will never have to wear a tie.

I will not be the queen of the ball.

I will not be hanged.

I will not be trapped.

I will not give up.

I will not give in.

I will never give enough.

I will never give less.

I will not quit.

I will never take a stand.

I will not be thrown away.

I will not be ignored.

I will not be happy for a while.

I will not be hungry for a while.

I will not laugh for a while.

I will not be pleasant for a while.

I will not tell jokes.

I will not believe you.

I will not feel like doing anything.

I will not leave my house.

I do not feel like talking.

I am not feeling sorry for myself.

I am not offended.

I am not in a bad mood.

I will not open my curtains.

I will not let on I am at home.

I will not be depressed.

I will not like my neighbour as I like myself.

I will not be forgiving.

I do not want to silence my freedom of  
speech.

I do not have to form an opinion.

I will never have only one opinion.

I will have no conversations about laundry.

I will not discuss jewellery with my friends.

I will not remember my birth.

I will not remember my first day at school.

I do not remember your face.

I will not talk the whole evening about my illness or the illnesses of my friends.

I do not have to be kept prisoner.

I do not have to marry a rich friend of my father.

I will not be considered impure because I have my period.

I will not be impure because I am sick.

I will not be censured.

I do not have to flee from violence.

I do not have to flee from floods.

I will not die before I am 45.

I will not be abused because of my race.

I do not have to fear landmines.

I do not have to fear starvation.

My crops will not be destroyed by fire.



I will not be eaten by a lion.

I will not get diphtheria because of filthy drinking water.

I do not have to watch my children being dismembered.

I will not be forced to show my hair in public.

I will not be allowed to hide my face.

I do not have to hide my body.

I do not want to be measured by my weight.

I do not want to be measured by the shape of my face.

I will not be decapitated for adultery because my neighbour raped me.

I will not be orphaned because of aids.

I do not like to work on Mondays.

I do not want to celebrate Christmas.

I do not want to stay idle on holidays

I do not want to go on organised trips.

I do not want to go on vacation.

I will never get stuck in an airport.

I do not want to lose time buying groceries.

I do not want to be cleaning.

I do not want anybody else to clean up after me.

I do not want to clean up after anybody else.

I will not be buried in an anonymous grave.

I do not have to shave my armpits.

I will not do full frontal nudity.

I will not get lost in the jungle

I will not get lost in the desert.

I will not be raised by wolves.

I will never have to perform circumcision.

I do not have to climb the golden mountain.

I will not live in a caravan.

I do not have to find a system.

I do not have to support a system.

I do not have to pay the price.

I will not take a hint.

I will never have a career.

I will never join a group.

I will never acquire a look.

I will never be in love.

I will never survive.

I will never be a man.

I will never desire what I have.

I will never have less than I need.

I will never desire what I don't have.

When I die I will not be neatly folded.

My arms will not be folded.

My fingers will not be tangled.

My legs will not be crossed, it took me a lifetime to uncross them.

My mouth will not be closed.

My eyes will not be shut.

When I die, I will not be remembered long.

I will not be remembered kindly.

I will not be thought off with fondness.

When I die, water will not ripple, eyelids will not be raised, news will not be made.

I will not have any influence on statistics.

I will not perish successfully.

I do not want to save the world.

I do not want to save me.

I do not want to be saved.

I do not want to dominate.

I do not want to win.

I do not want to be dominated.

I do not want to lose.

I will not live until the end of my life.

I will not be afraid of you.

I will not be the beginning of generations to  
come.

I will not be a compromise.

I will not fear traffic.

I will not fear truth.

I will not fear lies.

I will not fear pain.

I will not fear injustice.

I will not fear agony of others.

I will not fear nature.

I will not fear the city.

I will not fear people.

I will not fear petty crime.

I will not fear major crime.

I will not fear abuse.

I will not fear trust.

I will not fear bugs, as in insects or as in  
computer viruses.

I will not get lost.

I will not lose myself.

I am not afraid of forgetting.

I am not afraid of remembering.

I am not afraid of knowing.

I am not afraid of knowledge.

I do not want to be a coward.

I will never be anything else.

I will not be afraid of getting sick.

I will not be afraid of getting sick all over  
someone.

I will not be afraid of losing my teeth.

I will not be afraid of losing my hair.

I will not be afraid of getting old.

I will not fear losing bladder control.

I will not be afraid of getting crushed by  
something very big.

I will not be afraid of getting crushed by  
someone very big.

I will not stop working when I am 65.

I will not stop until I am stopped.

I will not own a cat that caught 176 mice.

I will never kill a deer.

I will never chop off the head of a turkey.

I will never catch a puffin.

I will never take a photograph of people in alphabetical order.

I will never take a photograph of people ordered by height.

I will never order people.

I will never be able to start over again.

I do not want it to be up to me.

I do not want it to be up to us.

I do not want it to be up to you.



I will never be a natural rebel.

I will never willingly rip toilet paper outside the perforated lines.

I will never cross the street when the little man is red.

I will never step spontaneously on to the grass in the park.

I do not need to touch everything that is cute.

I do not want to conquer anything that is tall.

I do not want to climb buildings.

I do not need to base jump.

I do not need to jump bungee.

I do not need to skydive.

I will never need a parachute.

I do not need to be in control.

I will never prefer dog to man.

I can never remember left from right.

I do not really know right from wrong.

I never know if a screw turns left or right.

I do not want to screw anyone.

I will not adjourn a meeting.

I will never endure.

I will never stop fearing the truth.

I will never stop fearing lies.

I will never become a fanatic.

I will never be the same.

I will not be televised.

I will not speak the unspeakable.

I will not love you anymore.

I will never touch you anymore.

I will not stroke you anymore.

I will not miss you anymore.

I will never wait for you anymore.

I will never taste your taste.

I will never smell your smell.

I will never feel the pain.

I will never kiss you.

I will never make a trip with you.

I will never look for you.

I will not need you.

I will not want you.

I will not long for you.

I will not walk beside you.

I will never walk in a parade.

I will never walk alone.

I will not honour the Unknown Soldier.  
I will not honour race.  
I will not honour countries.  
I will not salute flags.  
I will not accept ownership.  
I will not be owned.  
I will not own another person.

I will not stop changing.  
I will never stop trying.  
I will never understand.  
I do not have to hide.  
I do not like to be spied on.  
I do not want to be examined.  
I will not comply.  
I will not be intimidated.  
I will not leave the sidelines.

I do not think you noticed.

I will not receive additional funding.

I will not move large amounts of money from one account to the other.

I will never be good enough.

I will never be strong enough.

I will never be weak.

I will never find it simple.

I will never be your saviour.

I will never be the only one having this problem.

I will not repair your computer.

I do not want to invade your privacy.

I will not be curious.

I do not like the heat of the sun.

I do not like sweaty hands.

I do not like swollen ankles.

I do not like the tiredness.

I do not want to hunt.

I will not be in the line of fire.

I will not have to step down.

I will not have to abdicate.

I will not be impeached.

I do not like white beaches.

I do not have one favourite book.

I do not have one favourite film.

I will not be more than 'temporary and past'.

I will not face a criminal charge.

I will not predict leadership.

I will not predict the future.

I will not think it could not happen.

I will not die without a microwave.

I do not believe my life will be more meaningful if I own an electric ice-cream maker.

I will not carry excess baggage.

I will not be able to travel light.

I will never catch on.

I will never make it.

I will never sell my soul.

I will never be free.

I will never understand what it means.

I will never be open.

I will never be secure.

I will never get it.

I will not fade away.

I will never recover.

I will never time travel.

I will not return to the past.

I am never going to fix it.

I will not be accomplished.

I will not be a standard feature.

I will never be a rich country.

I will never meet the fat lady who sings when  
it is over.

I will never forget the journey to Canterbury.

My genitals will not be mutilated with a  
blunt and filthy knife.

I will not be cut up without anaesthetics.



I will not scream backwards because it hurts so much.

I will not be bandaged with a filthy cloth.

I will not be delirious with fever for two weeks because of infection.

I will not be unable to enjoy sexual pleasures for the rest of my life.

I will not be ripped open by penetration.

I will not make a spectacle of myself.

I will not be sorry for seducing you.

I will never understand enough to make you understand.

I do not know enough to make you see.

I do not know how to share the beauty of parallel lines.

I do not know how to make you hear almost none-existing sounds.

I do not know how to explain the overpowering importance of the subtlest of subtle changes.

I am not capable of showing the beauty of white on white.

I am not capable of sharing the force of infinity.

I can not explain how 'the infinite same' equals 'the infinite different'.

I can not explain endless space.

I can not explain vastness of nothing.

I can not understand that in the perspective of all things it does not matter.

I can not understand that at the same time it is all that matters.

I can not make you understand that there is no 'us' and 'them'.

I do not know how to exist.

I do not know how to make choices.

I do not want to make choices.

I do not want to find a place.

I will never have one identity.

I will never have one goal.

I do not want to have a goal.

I do not want to decide.

I will never be fully prepared as to what is expected of me.

I will not be going away.

I will not run.

I will not discuss matters.

I will not be swayed.

I will never be error free.

I will not call my mother for recipes.

I will not phone Pakistan for instructions.

I will not spell check my text messages.

I will not take the train back home to make sure I turned off the coffee machine.

I will not double-check the lock of the front door.

I will not try to turn off my mobile phone more than once before the start of a performance.

I will not remove everything from my fridge because one or two things have past their sell-by date by a day or so.

I will not panic because I have swallowed a fly while riding my bicycle.

I will not lose my temper because you always need to do something else first when dinner is ready.

I will not be annoyed because you keep on changing our appointments.

I will not expect to get a present on my birthday.

I do not expect you to know what I want.

I will not cook for ten when I know only two people are coming.

I will not be disappointed because there are leftovers.

I will not be worried because I have no money left and the month has barely begun.

I will not feel disorientated and nervous every time my period is about to start.

I will not start crying over nothing.

I will not be embarrassed if I stain a strange bed.

I will not be surprised when I do not recognise my own reality.

I will not be surprised when it changes several times a day.

I will not be scared when I lose my bearings.

I will not be scared when I lose my role.

I will not be lost when I fall out of character.

I will not get carried away when I find I fit.

I do not have a little tattoo that says, 'Made in China'.

I will not be embarrassed, when in my dream,  
I can not find a clean toilet and behind the  
tree in the woods turns out to be in the  
middle of my bed.

I will not wake up screaming, when in my  
dream, I fall from a window and I have to fall  
over and over because the window is not high  
enough.

I will not be scared when the elevator moves  
up and down and sideways and enters other  
buildings and stops in between floors, while a  
fierce storm is blowing and I can not  
recognise where I am.

I will not feel embarrassed because I trip over  
a loose stone in the pavement.

I will not feel disgusted when my shoe meets a fresh pile of dog shit.

I will not feel silly when I knock over a glass of beer because I am drunk.

I will not hurt myself when I fall over trying to undo my shoelaces.

I will not be ashamed when I can not remember parts of the conversation.

I will not feel embarrassed about the parts I do remember.

I will not be able to get out of bed.

I will never drink again.

I will never be counted as a casualty.

I will never hurt you intentionally.

I will never mind a complex problem.

I will never be addicted to games.



I will never have mass consumer appeal.

I will never go bankrupt.

I will never handle firearms.

I will never play the trumpet.

I will never count sheep to fall asleep.

I will not let my guard down.

I will not regard my having no money as  
being poor.

I will never cease to wonder.

I will not work on a comeback.

I will not go away.

I will never be replaced.

I will not come again.

I will not accept barbaric acts.

I will not be notified.

I will not pursue the same.

I will not yell.

I will not howl.

I will never hoot.

I will not be barked at.

I will not be sniggered at.

I will not squeak.

I will not mutter.

I will not grumble.

I will not need to clear my throat before I  
speak.

I will not be a Sagittarius.

Today, I will not have an encounter with a  
promising man.

Today, I do not have to be open for romantic  
surprises.

I will not have to be wary of risky money transactions.

I will not have to deal with the envy of my colleagues at work.

I will never be bothered by predictions.

I will never be a victim.

I will never burn books.

I will not accuse.

I will not be accused.

I do not need your help.

I will not be intimidated by loudness.

I will not fear chaos.

I will not lose my mind.

I do not want to go diving in the Great Barrier Reef.

I do not want to go on a safari in Kenya.

I will not put all my savings towards the first civilian space journey.

I am not going to save the white tiger.

I will not spare the spider that wants to share my apartment in the autumn.

I do not need to see the Taj Mahal.

I do not need to see the pyramids.

I will not sell my body to tourists.

I will not sell sex to soldiers.

I will not be forced to.

I do not want to be a tourist.

I will not be a tourist in my own life.

I do not remember who you are.

I do not remember where we met.

I do not remember what we did.

I do not remember your name.

I can not place your face.

I will not be able to receive you.

I will not be stopped by a glass ceiling.

I might never reach it.

I do not want to move to Switzerland.

I will not be allowed to.

I will not be accepted.

I do not have enough lifesavings.

I will not have my arse examined to see if I  
am smuggling diamonds.

I will not have my stomach x-rayed to search  
for drugs.

I do not know how to swim.

I am not able to drive a car.

I can not give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

I can not make fire.

I do not know how to search for water.

I can not set a broken limb.

I do not know how to stay calm.

I will not know how to stay.

I will not know what to do.

I do not know how to deal with disaster.

I will not be able to stop the bleeding.

I will not be able to reassure.

I will not know how to comfort.

I will not be afraid to hold your hand.

I will not be fainting.

I will not be able to sleep.

I will not be able to speak.

I will not forget the scavenging dogs.

I will not forget they are people too.

I will never hear the screams of panic.

I will never hear its silence.

I will never taste the smell of rotting bodies.

I will never taste the smell of burning flesh.

I will never lose the rest of my family.

I have never been in danger.

I have never been in shock.

I do not have to run for my life.

I will never see a head with a blown off face.

I will never be identified by my dentist's  
work.

I do not understand how sport always comes  
next.

I do not want to be in the right place at the  
right time.

I will not make the right move.

I will not squander water.

I will not squander food.

I will not squander money.

I will not squander love.

I will not squander friendship.

I will not squander tears.

I will not squander sympathy.

I will not squander goodwill.

I will not squander confidence.

I will not squander self-esteem.

I will not squander care.

I will never be carefree.

I do not want to be too careful.

I do not want to marry.

I will never have children.

I will not found a family.



I will not regret solitude.

I do not want understanding.

I do not want it to be yours.

I will not found a self-help group.

I will never preside over a foundation.

I will not pull your leg.

I will not cost an arm and a leg.

I will not come cheap.

I do not want to be immortal.

I do not believe 'forever'.

I do not mind the leaves falling.

I do not mind decay.

I do not want to preserve.

I do not want the earth to stop turning.

I do not want to change the direction of time.

I do not need to keep eternal.

I do not need 'it will never change'.

I do not want to stop evolution.

I will not blame youth.

I will not create an idol.

I will not support a goddess.

I will not have to shoot a lame horse.

I will not be just a woman.

I was never just a girl.

I will not provide you with excuses.

I will not try to change your mind.

I will not be finished.

I will not be done.

I won't.

I will not be finished.

I will not be done.

I won't.

I won't.

*I have no thoughts and this is one of them*

premiered on the 14th of March in 2007 in the  
Vooruit, Ghent, Belgium

Performer: Claire Marshall

Text & concept: Tine van Aerschot

Dutch translation: Martine Bom

[www.kaaitheater.be](http://www.kaaitheater.be)

[www.vooruit.be](http://www.vooruit.be)

The creation of the theatre performance *I have no thoughts and this is one of them* and the publication of this text and its Dutch translation were made possible through the support by the Flemish Government and the Flemish Community Commission.

Tine Van Aerschot (Mechelen, 1961) started to work in the theatre in 1987. Her work took on numerous functions (dramaturg, designer, production, writer...) depending on the needs of the projects. There were collaborations with Meg Stuart and Damaged Goods, Dennis O'Conner, Sarah Chase, Christine Desmedt, Simon Aughterlony and many others and in no special order. But it is only from 2002 onward, after she met her alter ego Trevor Wells that she started to create her own work. First there was a series of e-mails, some form of pre- blogging. Afterwards came a visual work all under the same title: *The Whereabouts of Trevor Wells*.

In 2006 the first theatre piece appeared. *I have no thoughts, and this is one of them* describes an image of today's world, using nothing else but negations: I

will not, I can not, I will never... In 2008 it is Trevor Wells whom appears again. His diary that he only manages to keep for about twenty days is filled with questions, thoughts about all and nothing. In 2012 there is *we are not afraid of the dark* a piece about survival and subsequently about death.

Texts for theatre

*we are not afraid of the dark* – 2012

*Triple Trooper Trevor Trumpet girl* – 2008

*I have no thoughts and this is one of them* – 2006

Tine Van Aerschot (Mechelen, 1961) is in het theater beginnen werken in 1987. Haar werk nam verschillende vormen aan in functie van de noden van het project (dramaturg, vormgever, productie, tekst,...). Er waren samenwerkingen met tientallen gezelschappen en artiesten waaronder Meg Stuart and Damaged Goods, Dennis O'Conner, Sarah Chase, Christine Desmedt, Simon Aughterlony en vele anderen. Maar het is pas vanaf 2002 toen ze haar alter-ego Trevor Wells tegen het lijf liep, dat ze effectief zelf begon met werk te ontwikkelen. Eerst kwam een reeks van e-mails, als voorzichtige voorloper van de huidige blog-cultuur. Daarna was er beeldend werk, beide werden uitgebracht onder de titel *The whereabouts of Trevor Wells*. In 2006 kwam de eerste voorstelling *I have no thoughts and*

*this is one of them*. Een opsomming, een wereldbeeld opgebouwd door alleen maar ontkenningen: ik kan niet, ik wil niet, ik ga niet, ik zal nooit... In 2008 was het dan opnieuw de beurt aan Trevor Wells, in het theater dit keer: *Triple Trooper Trevor Trumpet girl*. Een mislukt dagboek vol vragen en bedenkingen over alles en niets. Nu in 2012 gaat *we are not afraid of the dark* in première. Het is een stuk over overleven en daarom ook over sterven.

## Toneelwerk

*we are not afraid of the dark* – 2012

*Triple Trooper Trevor Trumpet girl* – 2008

*I have no thoughts and this is one of them* – 2006