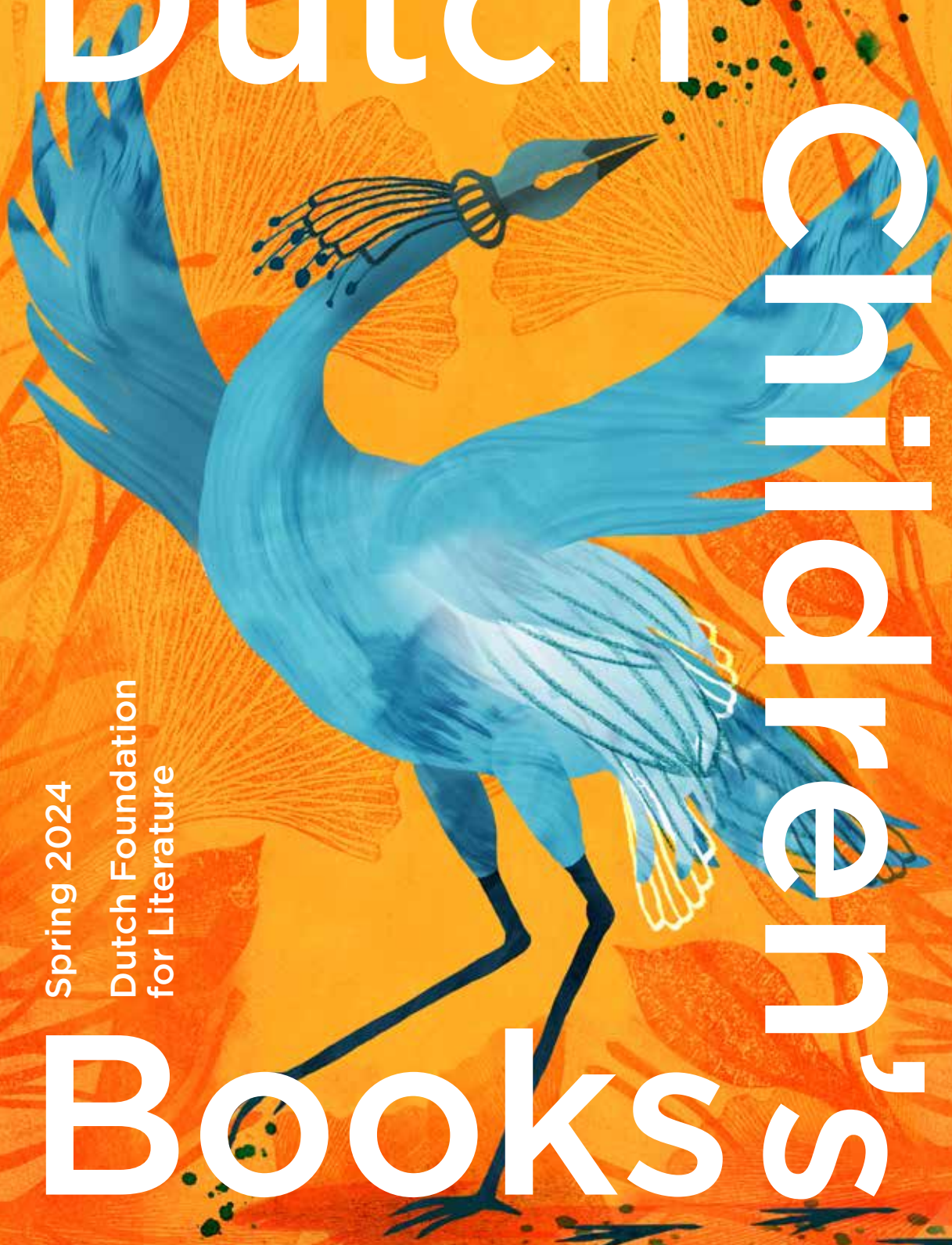


Dutch

Philippine

Spring 2024
Dutch Foundation
for Literature

Books, Surprises,



Dutch Children's Books is published by the Dutch Foundation for Literature.

The Dutch Foundation for Literature has the task of supporting writers and translators, and of promoting Dutch literature abroad. It invests in the quality and diversity of literature through grants for writers, translators, publishers and festivals, and contributes to the production and distribution of Dutch and Frisian literature at home and abroad. With the support of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, it aims to promote a thriving literary climate, embedded in literary history and attuned to the latest developments in the publishing industry.

Foreign publishers wishing to publish translations of Dutch literature may apply for a subsidy towards the translation costs. In the case of high-quality illustrated children's books, additional support for production costs is possible.

We highly recommend the titles in this brochure, and would be happy to give further advice on noteworthy and interesting books for your publishing list. For more information please visit www.letterenfonds.nl or contact children's book specialist Agnes Vogt, a.vogt@letterenfonds.nl

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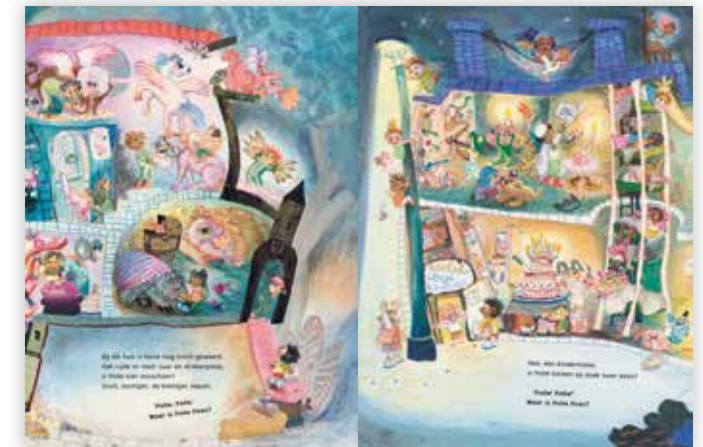
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Spring 2024

Where Is Kitty Cat?

Marijke Klompmaker



Waar is Polle Poes?
30 pages
3+

Rights
Rubinstein
Irene Kunst
irene@rubinstein.nl

- Lots and lots of funny details
- A wide range of diverse characters
- References to famous figures from stories and elsewhere

'There are look-and-find books and there are special look-and-find books. This one falls into the second category.'

JaapLeest

The idea behind Marijke Klompmaker's first solo picture book is a simple one: the cat has gone missing - and the reader is invited to help search various houses in the neighbourhood. But the way the idea is developed is surprising and original. With a beautifully bold and meandering style, Klompmaker uses pencil, brush and collage to build higgledy-piggledy themed houses with undulating walls. The protagonist, Nova, looks for Polle the cat in the homes of crooks and construction workers, inventors and astronauts, mythical creatures and fictional characters. Every packed picture has its own colour palette, so the cheerful chaos remains a united whole. For anyone who thinks they've seen it all, there are additional things to search for at the back of the book.

The Great Beetletown Cooking Contest

Bibi Dumon Tak & Geertje Aalders



Heel Keverburg kookt
32 pages
4+

Rights
Gottmer
Annette Wichmann
a.wichmann@gottmer.nl

- The Great British Bake Off for insects!
- About winning and losing and knowing your worth
- Colourful and original papercut illustrations

'Bibi Dumon Tak and Geertje Aalders humorously mix the human world and the insect world in this magnificent picture book.'

Trouw

It's time for Beetletown's annual cooking competition. All the bees, butterflies, beetles and bugs are excitedly preparing to impress the jury with their best recipes. All except for the dung beetles. Because they never win anyway. The jury won't even taste the dung beetles' entry. But the oldest and wisest dung beetle refuses to give in.

Geertje Aalders's beautifully intricate collages, with every antenna, wing, marshmallow and petal cut with painstaking skill from paper, combine with Bibi Dumon Tak's hilarious characters and perfectly pitched text to create a brilliantly quirky tale that's also an absolute beauty. Both the text and the illustrations are packed with juicy little details. Who knew poo could taste so good?

Nadia's Night

Henriette Herber & Miriam Bouwens



Nadia's nacht
96 pages
+4

Rights
Shared Stories
Irina Formichev
irina@sharedstories.nl

- Modern stories for toddlers
- About a rainbow family
- Part 2 published in April 2024



'The stories are lively, familiar and written with care.'

Trouw

This is the first collection of stories about a child with two dads published in the Netherlands. As far as the five-year-old protagonist Nadia is concerned, her family situation is perfectly ordinary: 'My mummy lives somewhere else. She's my tummy mummy, and her name is Lin.'

Nadia's lively toddler imagination gives the collection a unique atmosphere. In every story, the events have an extra, sometimes almost magical, dimension. On the beach, she imagines touching a shark's wobbly tooth. When she's in a meadow, she pictures the grass turning into spaghetti with red sauce raining down on it.

The dreamy drawings are a perfect match for the stories, poised between reality and fantasy.

This affectionate portrait of Nadia's family, creates a close-knit, warm little world, which is a great place to be.

awards

The Netherlands' major awards for children's books

Woutertje Pieterse Prize 2024 Winner



De jongen die van de wereld hield
Tjibbe Veldkamp and Mark Janssen (Querido)

Shortlist

Het touw en de waarheid
Marco Kunst and Jeska Versteegen (Lemniscaat)

De spin en de sleutel
Anna Woltz (Querido)

Umbrador
Marieke Smithuis and Jeska Versteegen (Querido)

Maksie
Mathilde Stein and Jan Jutte (Lemniscaat)

Een slijmzoen voor je oma
Matthijs Meeuwse and Paco Vink (Querido)

Gouden Griffel



Misjka
Edward van de Vendel, Anoush Elman and Annet Schaap (Ill.) (Querido)

Gouden Penseel



Een kleine geschiedenis van de mens door dierenogen
Djenné Fila (Ill.) and Jolkje Akveld (Lannoo)

Boon shortlist 2024

Gelukkig en blij
Edward van de Vendel and Martijn van der Linden (Querido)

Neem nooit een beste vriend
Erna Sassen and Martijn van der Linden (Leopold)

Nog lang geen later
Kees Spiering and Jeska Versteegen (Luitingh-Sijthoff)

Vandaag houd ik mijn spreekbeurt over de anaconda
Bibi Dumon Tak and Annemarie van Haeringen (Querido)

Zilveren Griffel



Schildpad en ik
Marit Törnqvist (Querido)

Non-fiction



Briljante planten
Geert-Jan Roebbers and Margot Westermann (Ill.) (Gottmer)

Zilveren Penseel



gedachten denken
Hanneke Siemensma (Ill.) and Annelies Beck (Querido)



Pluk en Pluis. De weg naar terug
Mathilde Stein (Lemniscaat)

Non-fiction



Vandaag houd ik mijn spreekbeurt over de anaconda
Bibi Dumon Tak and Annemarie van Haeringen (Ill.) (Querido)



De kaarten van madame Petrova
Marjolijn Hof and Annette Fienieg (Ill.) (Querido)

Poetry



Applaus voor mijn vinger
Erik van Os and Jan Jutte (Ill.) (Querido)



Patroon
Marco Kunst (Gottmer)

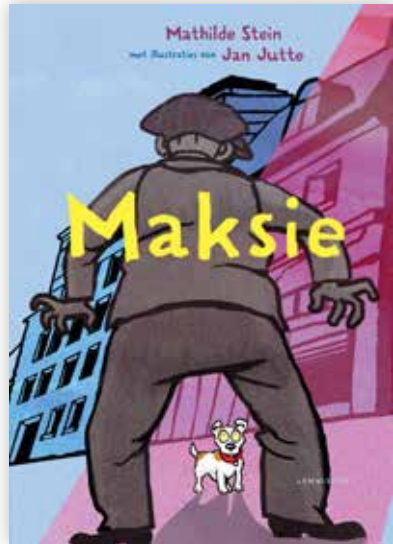
Poetry



Heel de wereld wordt wakker
Jaap Robben and Sebastiaan Van Doninck (Ill.) (Gottmer)

Maxi

Mathilde Stein & Jan Jutte



Maksie
96 pages
7+

Rights

Lemniscaat
Robin van der Gaag
robin@lemniscaat.nl

- Irresistible heroes
- Sharp humour full of fun exaggeration
- Written in an exciting and lively style
- Imaginative and layered
- Expressive, cartoon-like illustrations

*Alarm!/ Alarm!/ Maxi's little ears stand up in fright./ It's that time again!
Through the window, he sees someone coming down the street.
A little old lady./ That's not good./ A little old lady with a bag./ That's not good at all. /
A little old lady with a bag/ who's heading STRAIGHT for the pet shop.../ That is seriously super-mega-giga BAD.*

This opening scene by Mathilde Stein is exactly how a good opening scene should be. With such a well-balanced mix of tension, humour, action and slight confusion, your curiosity is piqued to such an extent within just those few sentences that you can't help but read on to find out more about the little lapdog with the big name.

It soon becomes clear why the little protagonist is so upset. Maxi wants an owner, but no 'boring grannies' – and certainly no 'boring grannies with stuffy bags' to carry him around in. That's his worst nightmare. No, Maxi longs for a tough owner, like Ben the police officer from the reality TV show. But there's not much chance of that happening. So, Maxi goes in search of an owner himself.

The expressive cartoonish colour pictures by the renowned illustrator Jan Jutte are the perfect match for this story and its sparkling language. Just when Maxi spots what he thinks is his 'dream owner' and races after him, we suddenly see the old lady again, even before Maxi himself notices her. Her delighted

A heart-warming story to read alone and to read aloud about a little dog's exciting search for an owner

expression and her outstretched arms say that, whatever it takes, she wants to make Maxi hers.

The ensuing chase scene is pure slapstick. But Stein offers more than over-the-top exaggeration. Because... who is the old lady really? While Stein makes her naïve Maxi believe that he's found his 'dream owner', Jutte subtly reveals that the shady-looking man might not be who Maxi thinks he is – and the same goes for the little old lady. This ingeniously shifting narrative perspective between author and illustrator results in a delightful tale, which ultimately gives Maxi the best owner ever. This book is irresistible from start to finish.

'In short sentences with lots of colloquial exclamations, Mathilde Stein has written a story with a warm, beating heart.'

Het Parool

About *Vuurtorenbeer*:

'Written with freshness and enthusiasm, with great pace and humour.'

Trouw



Mathilde Stein has made a name for herself by writing exciting, humorous books for beginning readers in rich language that reveals her keen understanding of this target group. Her award-winning *Pluk en Pluis. De weg naar terug* (2022) was followed last year by both *Maksie* and *Vuurtorenbeer*, a relevant story about real courage and heroism and the power of imagination. The dynamic mixed-media illustrations by the South African artist Piet Grobler have a cartoon-like character that's a perfect fit for this stormy sea adventure with its dazzling bearish dialogues.

Once Upon a Time...

Milouska Meulens
& Djenné Fila



Er was ook eens...
141 pages
7+

Rights

Volt
Luciënne van der Leije
l.van.der.leije@singeluitgeverijen.nl

- Folk tales with a difference
- Inclusive, mixing stories from all over the world
- Illustrations incorporating old storybooks

There are entire parts of the world where no one has ever heard of Little Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty or Hansel and Gretel – and people tell different stories entirely. About the rainbow snake, for instance, or water spirits and primal mothers.

These tales are about the origins of the world, how people populated it, and how to deal with danger, life and death. About princes, wanderers, hunters and warriors who have impossible adventures. Many of these stories were not written down but were instead passed from mother to daughter.

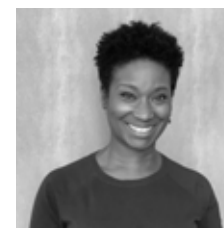
Children's writer and television presenter Milouska Meulens searched for a long time but couldn't find those stories on the bookshelves, so she decided to write them down herself. She began with what she had heard from her Omama, her great-grandmother, in Curaçao. But rather than choosing the tales of one single culture, she decided to combine the stories of various cultures, until something emerged that was completely new and yet universal. These are stories you'll be welcome to tell all over the world!

The tales begin in a time 'when all the continents were still stuck together like cookies on a baking tray'. They are mysterious and dreamy, but always exciting too. In the last story, for example, the five brothers Dhira, Bala, Indra, Laghu and Aashu go in search of a mysterious gate and have to face various monstrous challenges on the way.

Tales that the author remembers hearing from her Omama in Curacao but never found in any books

In her third children's book, Meulens has found a tone and humour all of her own, writing with great charm and ambition to bring the oldest stories, once shared around campfires all over the world, back to life. This is a fine, new storytelling voice.

The illustrator Djenné Fila has made a stunning contribution to the book, using old storybooks to create her atmospheric collages. The result is a work of art in its own right. Each chapter has its own basic colour. By placing layer over layer, she makes it appear as if the reader can walk through the gate into story land.



Milouska Meulens is a radio and television journalist, who presented the children's news show for years. She has made a documentary about vegan food and has a regular nighttime radio slot. In 2024 she published an autobiographical novel. Her Curacaoan background plays an important role in her work.



Djenné Fila quickly attracted the attention of readers and critics with her illustrations for Lida Dijkstra's *Het beest met de kracht van tien paarden* (2019) and Joukje Akveld's *Een kleine geschiedenis van de mensheid door dierenogen* (2022), for which she won the Gouden Penseel for the year's best illustrated children's book.

'Meulens writes the way her Omama told the tales, deliberately mixing stories from all over the world and interpreting and fantasising as she sees fit.'

NRC

How I Hid My Sister and Lost Her

Mohana van den Kroonenberg & Nadia Meezen



Ik heb mijn zusje kwijtgemaakt
150 pages
8+

Rights
De Vier Windstreken
Nathalie Bierhuizen
nathalie@vierwindstreken.com

- Strong opening sentences
- Skilful creation of suspense
- A captivating protagonist
- Humour and emotion go hand in hand

'I'm Kos and I've lost my baby sister. I really will explain what that's all about soon, but first I'm going to tell you how much fun it was to start with.' Yes, these opening sentences from Mohana van den Kroonenberg's second children's book, about a day in the life of a child who goes out on his own, pack quite a punch. Building up so much tension in so few words is no easy feat.

Van den Kroonenberg is a master at writing sentences that contain more than meets the eye. For example, the Saturday afternoon full of everyday happiness that Kos shares with the reader, cheerfully babbling away, turns out not to be as simple as it appears. Van den Kroonenberg subtly suggests that, since Soof, Kos's baby sister, was born, something's been wrong with his mum. 'She's put all her happiness into the baby,' the little boy remarks, 'and she's started crying herself.'

So, it makes sense that now she's 'having a super happy day', Kos can't believe his luck. It also makes sense that, when his mum's attention shifts to his dad and they only have eyes for each other, Kos gets angry. 'They don't need us,' he grumbles to Soof, and he decides to go and hide in the local park with her. The game gets out of hand when, bouncing between his imagination and reality, he forgets Soof's hiding place and is so ashamed that he doesn't dare to go back home.

Assisted by Nadia Meezen's cartoonish and atmospheric illustrations, Van den Kroonenberg

A funny and empathetically written adventure in which a 7-year-old boy hides his baby sister in a park – and forgets where

effortlessly leads the reader on a journey into Kos's young mind and around his irrational thoughts. His open-minded attitude to the world leads to all kinds of hilarious and touching encounters, which Van den Kroonenberg uses to poke fun at our society with subtle irony. For example, when Kos tells a homeless man that he's lost his sister and doesn't want anyone to find him, she has the man say: 'If you come and sit next to me, no one will see you. People who sit by me don't exist.'

With such apt observations from her endearing protagonist, Van den Kroonenberg lends an extra layer to her warm adventure story, showing just what an excellent writer she is.

'Van den Kroonenberg does an outstanding job of capturing Kos's uncontrolled stream of consciousness.'

Het Parool

'The illustrations by Nadia Meezen have the same understated charm as the story.'

Jaapleest.nl



Mohana van den Kroonenberg's debut, *Dodo* (2022), immediately established her name as a children's writer. In this story about Dorian, a stutterer who retreats into his own imagination, she shows that she understands the art of suspending disbelief, which is also what gives this new book so much power.

The Journey of Manie Shaved Ice

Zindzi Zevenbergen & Hedy Tjin



De reis van Manie Schaafijs
176 pages
10+

Rights

De Harmonie
Elsbeth Louis
elouis@deharmonie.nl

- A perfect mix of fiction and non-fiction
- A relevant theme: migration
- Touches on the history of Madeira, Brazil, Trinidad, Suriname and the Netherlands
- Shaved ice is known all over the world

This book, richly illustrated in tropical colours, tells the fascinating story of the illustrator Hedy Tjin's great-grandfather, the man who introduced shaved ice to the South American country of Suriname. This treat consists of fine shavings of ice with sweet syrup poured over it, and it's known by different names all over the world.

The book begins in the Netherlands, where the young Hedy is celebrating Queen's Day with her family. The conversation turns to her great-grandfather Francisco. In the early twentieth century, when he was seventeen, he faced the prospect of fighting in a war or dying of starvation, so he decided instead to run away from Madeira, the island where he was born.

A humorous element is the way Hedy's family keeps breaking into the story, peering over the edges of the pages and squabbling in speech bubbles about what actually happened in Francisco's life: 'Do you *know* that? Or do you just *think* that?' asks Aunt Rigoni. To which Grandma replies: 'I know that for certain. I think.'

Interruptions of this kind, combined with informative asides about history, make this a dynamic and varied reading experience.

Francisco stows away on a ship to Brazil, where he works on sugar plantations before moving to Suriname and starting a family. But he has to leave his family behind again to go and earn money in Trinidad, where his encounter with shaved ice is the beginning of a new life for him.

A fascinating family history involving migration, perseverance and shaved ice

Zevenbergen tells this story about migration, perseverance and resilience in a relaxed way, but always stays firmly in control, as can be seen by the way she composes the story. For instance, the apotheosis of Francisco's journey takes place on Konfryari, formerly the Surinamese Queen's Day, and a successful metaphor involving socks runs throughout the book. When he leaves Madeira, he loses a sock, and the other one later becomes his piggy bank. The socks represent his divided life: he has one foot still on his home soil, and the other in his new country.

The final sentence of this shaved-ice story, which is true in part or perhaps entirely, is also nicely done: 'If you're not sure that your story's quite right, then just pour lots of lovely syrup over it.'

'It's a multi-generational family story and a history book combined.'

Het Parool

'What a magnificent, masterfully told and illustrated, unique story Manie Schaafijs is.'

Boekwijzer

Photo: Mounir Raji

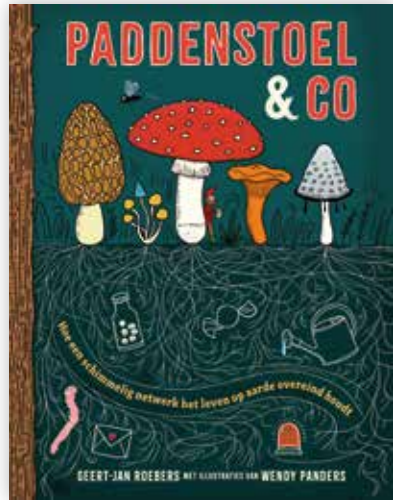


Zindzi Zevenbergen (middle) works as a copywriter for large companies including DHL, ABN AMRO Bank, and Schiphol Airport. She won a Zilveren Griffel award for her very first children's book, *Lennox en de gouden sikkkel*.

Hedy Tjin (left) is a designer and illustrator. She makes wall paintings, illustrations for national newspapers, textile art and children's books. In 2022, she won two Zilveren Penseel awards, for *Lennox en de gouden sikkkel* by Zindzi Zevenbergen and *Op de rug van Bigi Kayman* by Henna Goudzand Nahar.

Mushroom & Co

Geert-Jan Roebers
& Wendy Panders



Paddenstoel & co
144 pages
10+

Rights

Gottmer
Annette Wichmann
a.wichmann@gottmer.nl

Rights sold

Beisler Editore (Italy), Greystone
(Canada/UK), Pan Publishing
(Korea), Siruela (Spain)

- In-depth but accessible non-fiction
- Plenty of fun and fascinating illustrations
- Packed with humour

'You owe the fact that you're reading this book to fungi. Not because this book wouldn't be about anything otherwise, but because human beings would never have existed.'

Right from the very first chapter, the biologist Geert-Jan Roebers makes it clear that toadstools and mushrooms aren't just any old subject. This largely unseen fungal kingdom plays a crucial role in our existence.

We're most familiar with their often enchanting visible sides: beautiful fungi with marvellous names such as the turkey tail, the velvet foot, the devil's bolete and the dead man's hand. There are some that glow in the dark (the jack-o'-lantern mushroom) and hugely expensive ones (white truffles), and they often come in the most amazing shapes, like the fluted bird's nest, which resembles 'a teeny-tiny cupcake case with a bear's fur on the outside'.

But in fact, as Roebers points out in another evocative image, all these mushrooms and toadstools are merely the fingertips of an enormous underground fungus giant. He zooms in to focus on fungal threads beneath the soil's surface. The book has an in-depth approach. We learn all about cells, yeasts, spores, the many different sexes of fungi and their history, which goes back millions of years. Amusingly, the timeline ends with the first edition of this book.

Roebers understands the art of explaining things in a funny and very accessible way that kindles the enthusiasm and provides plenty of

A playfully written and humorously illustrated non-fiction title about the fungal network that sustains life on Earth

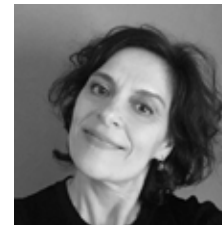
facts to impress your friends. Did you know, for example, that the moisture that sometimes lingers on fungi isn't dew, but 'mould sweat' and 'mushroom pee'? Or that there are predatory fungi that set traps to catch worms? Or that penicillin is derived from fungi?

Wendy Panders's illustrations make this book a vibrant whole: her pictures are clear, but also light and humorous. Next to the explanation of how fungi digest wood to make a nutritious soup, she draws a disappointed fungus wearing a bib and thinking to itself, 'Wood soup? Again?' And a large toad looks very puzzled by the tiny stool that he's expected to perch on. This is a book that's full of fungal fun!

Photo: Renate Feitler



Geert-Jan Roebers is a biologist who worked at the Dutch version of the World Wildlife Fund before starting a copywriting agency. In recent years, he has had a great deal of success with non-fiction children's books about animals, nature and the environment. In 2023, he won a Zilveren Griffel award for *Briljante planten* and a Glazen Globe for *Dit was de plastictijd*. His work has been translated into Chinese, English, Spanish, Korean, Italian and Arabic.



Wendy Panders is a graphic designer and artist who is best known for her humorous illustrations in non-fiction books. Her work has appeared in many books, including *Viruswereld* (written by Marc ter Horst, published in English as *Snot, Sneezes, and Super-Spreaders*).

'Roebers writes enthusiastically and creatively. Wendy Panders's illustrations brighten things up, providing explanations and guidance through this "shadowy fungal realm".'

Kidsweek

The Boy Who Loved The World

Tjibbe Veldkamp & Mark Janssen



De jongen die van de wereld hield
184 pages
10+

Rights
Querido
Luciënne van der Leije
l.van.der.leije@singeluitgeverijen.nl

- A highly original winter's fairy tale
- A future child brings his parents together

It sounds like the most impossible mission ever: **Breath, a spirit who resembles an eleven- or twelve-year-old boy, has to ensure that his future mother and father fall in love. Otherwise he will never exist for real.**

This is the story: his future mother, Zdenka, and his future father, Vaclav, both slip and fall at the same moment as they're crossing a snowy bridge over the River Naber in the town of Paznau in what appears to be somewhere in eastern Europe. They land in each other's arms. From that moment, Breath exists – but only as a possibility.

Zdenka is a police officer and Vaclav is a homeless man who writes inflammatory words about the city council on walls at night. It's highly unlikely that they'd ever get together in the normal course of events. For now, Breath is no more than a possible boy.

The spirit Barkov, who watches over all the potential children in Paznau, takes Breath under his wing and goes against his own principles to give him a brief chance at real life so that he can nudge his parents in the right direction. Once Breath returns to Paznau, he finds his mother soon enough. However, she doesn't believe a word of his story. She likes the boy, but she thinks he's after her money. His itinerant father proves much more difficult to track down. Deeply disappointed, Breath goes to live with his new friend, Felix, at the local orphanage, still hoping that a miracle will occur.

If Breath doesn't come up with a way to bring his mother and father together soon, he'll never be born

This sounds like a ready-made script for Christmas fun for all the family, and perhaps it is. It's a book that's begging to be made into a movie. This is certainly not a criticism. Although it's very romantic, this feel-good story is written in such a gritty, wise and humorous way that it never becomes overly sweet – far from it.

'One of his best books.'

www.edwardvandevedel.nl

'De jongen die van de wereld hield is a Pinocchio-like winter's tale with a breathtaking twist.'

www.hebban.nl



Tjibbe Veldkamp studied psychology and worked as an academic – until someone suggested that he should start writing children's books. During his early years as a writer, he also edited the Dutch *Donald Duck* comic. He is best known as a creator of funny picture books, read-aloud stories and books for beginning readers, such as *Tim op de tegels* (2004) and the *Agent en boef* series (started in 2008), illustrated by Kees de Boer. He has also written a number of books for older children and young adults. His work has won five Zilveren Griffel awards and the Woutertje Pieterse Prize.

To celebrate Edward's place on the shortlist for the H.C. Andersen Award, we would like to turn the spotlight on two recent projects.

Edward van de Vendel is one of the most prolific and exciting children's writers in the Netherlands and has won just about every prize going. He writes picture books for the youngest readers, poetry for all ages, middle-grade stories and gripping, realistic YA books, as well as translating books by authors including Ulf Stark, Andy Griffiths, Mo Willems, Håkon Øvreås and Julia Donaldson into Dutch.



Photo: Jota Chabel

Happy and Joyful



Poetry

Edward van de Vendel & Martijn van der Linden

Gelukkig en blij
112 pages
10+

'Edward van de Vendel is known for his powerful wordplay, and that is palpable in this book.'

Kinderboekrijk

This is a collection of fifty poems by Edward van de Vendel about being happy – and sometimes unhappy. Illustrated by the award-winning and hugely versatile Martijn van der Linden, the poems come from the minds and mouths of the animals on a farm that's called 'Happy and Joyful', but it's not all good news down on the farm. Its residents include philosophical donkeys, a happy mother pig, a grumpy garden gnome, the cats Hannes and Hassan, who have a love-hate relationship, and a tortoise who sneezes himself all the way to Kazakhstan. These animals have

- Philosophical and fun animal poems
- Characters who are easy to identify with
- Varied illustrations that perfectly complement the poems

plenty to say about emotions and about life, providing a wry commentary on our existence. Often amusing, these poems also convey important messages about how to live our lives. They are warm and hopeful without ever becoming sentimental. Even though the title might suggest that all is well, the happy animals on this farm know all about the darker sides of life too.

The Last Rays of the Sun



Picture book

Edward van de Vendel & Jet Parent

De restjes van de zon
40 pages
5+

'Without a doubt, one of the most beautiful and most important children's books of this year.'

Trouw

'The animals huddled together beneath the thick pine branch. It had been dark for days. It had rained all the time. And what colour was the forest? Light grey, dark grey.'

We all know how it feels when the sun disappears and it seems as if it will never return. Vole decides to take

matters into her own paws and goes off to search for the last little bits of the sun in this picture book that will appeal to anyone who's ever missed the warm light of spring and summer. Squirrel doesn't speak very often, but when he does, everyone listens. He supports Vole and joins her search, which takes them to trees, bushes, nests, the pond and to the humans' house.

After a long hunt, Vole thinks she's found what the sun left behind for them and runs to fetch the others. When Squirrel points out that it's an orange signpost, the animals are deeply disappointed. But then everyone gets the giggles. As they collapse in helpless laughter, the sun returns to the forest. Jet Parent's dramatic illustrations in a palette of purple, green, yellow, brown and blue are realistic and not overly cute, capturing the moods of the small animals in the big, dark forest.

Edward van de Vendel's masterful pen combines with a fine sense of fun and great dialogue to create animals with distinct personalities and voices. This is a gently philosophical and optimistic book about the importance of talking and listening to the quiet ones and, above all, about having a good laugh together.

- Having hope and friends in dark times
- The seasons
- The power of laughter
- Beautiful artwork by an exciting new illustrator

Rights

Querido

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Upstream

Marc ter Horst



Rugzwemmen
224 pages
12+

Rights
Gottmer
Annette Wichmann
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Rights sold
La Nuova Frontiera (Italy)

- An optimistic message
- A teenager who is differently defiant
- A climate book with a twist

Noor's mum and dad are fanatical about the environment. That means: no planes, eating vegetarian food, staging playful protest activities and having planning meetings in the living room. This way of life has always been completely natural to Noor. But now that she's expected to make a fool of herself by dressing up in a homemade polar-bear costume at the next demonstration and no one has even asked her if she actually wants to do it, she decides that enough is enough.

Noor's rebellious brother mainly sees the fun of the protest actions. He puts lentils into valve caps, so that car tyres slowly deflate, and glues his own stickers onto traffic signs. As a result, he successfully reduces the speed limit of cars in the neighbourhood. In the supermarket where he works, he neatly arranges environmentally friendly products where they can easily be seen – and messily pushes everything else to the back of the shelves.

Noor, though, has recently started high school, and she no longer wants to spend all day worrying about a grim future. She's tired of her classmates calling her Greta Thunberg – and she has other things than the environment on her mind now, such as her opinionated new classmate, Tim.

Noor's mum and dad are concerned about her moping and grumbling, so they send her to a summer camp for vulnerable children to help her learn how to set her boundaries. She promptly decides to do exactly that, setting

Noor's classmates have nicknamed her 'Greta Thunberg', but she has more on her mind than just the climate

some boundaries of her own – just not in the way that her family expects. When they drop her off at the railway station, she doesn't take the train to the summer camp but instead sneaks away to hide for a week at her favourite swimming spot by the river.

Marc ter Horst has made a successful move from scientific books for children to fiction. This is a hopeful, funny and courageous story, which raises a fair question: does all the attention to the climate, to which he has himself contributed with his previous books, perhaps weigh a little too heavily on children's shoulders? Ter Horst has come up with an unconventional, bold and optimistic response.

'A hyper-contemporary, provocative, humorous YA novel about a rebellious adolescent and parents who are (too?) climate conscious.'

Trouw

'A rich, intense and moving story that will definitely appeal to readers of twelve and up.'

Boekenkrant

Photo: Dennis Vloedmans



Since his first children's book in 2015, Marc ter Horst has written about scientific subjects, becoming well known for his books about the environment, such as *Scheten uit de schoorsteen* (2022, 5+). He won the Glazen Globe, a prize for the best children's book on a geographical theme, for *Palmen op de Noordpool* (2017, 10+, published in English as *Palm Trees at the North Pole*). For *Viruswereld* (2021, published in English as *Snot, Sneezes, and Super-Spreaders*), which he wrote during the Covid pandemic, he won a Zilveren Griffel. *Rugzwemmen* (2023) is his first fiction title.

Thousand and I Yorick Goldewijk & Yvonne Lacet



Duizend & ik
200 pages
13+

Rights
Ploegsma
Sophie Mulder
sophie.mulder@wpgmedia.nl

Rights sold
HarperCollins (Germany)

- A brilliantly inventive idea
- Stylistically powerful
- Familiar, relevant themes for young people
- Provides food for thought

You could call the world in this book a future dystopia, but strictly speaking the label falls short. Because is Yorick Goldewijk's thrilling and ingenious novel actually about the future? Or is Goldewijk opening an unexpected window onto our own time, in which the digital and real worlds are becoming increasingly intertwined?

Right from the beginning, the reader can tell that there's something unusual going on with the narrator, who is called Eight by a computerised voice. But what is it? Who is this girl who lives in Surdus, a soulless skyscraper city surrounded by 'the Wall' and the sea beyond? Why does she have a number instead of a name? And why does she take the train with her fellow citizens every morning to a station where she answers apparently meaningless questions on a screen all day long?

All Eight herself knows is that she is being trained for a meaningful existence in service to the 'animates' – as long as she follows the strict 'Principles'. These involve not questioning anything and being obedient and helpful. Anyone who strays from 'the Path' is hunted down by the drone-like 'seers' and 'terminated'. Eight wants to avoid this, but from the moment she looks straight into Thousand's eyes on the train one morning, she knows she is fighting a losing battle, and she becomes determined to go with Thousand to the sea.

Subtly playing with the ambiguity of the fictional reality, Goldewijk leads the reader on a

A captivating, ominous science-fiction novel about a girl's search for an unknown stranger – and for herself

chase for the truth. Does Thousand really exist? Or did Eight just see her own reflection? Does Thousand represent her own desire for freedom and intimacy? The lonely, alienated girl wonders where she is, who she is. Is everything around her an illusion? Or some kind of computer simulation? And does that matter as long as she can lead a real life?

These fascinating questions and Goldewijk's vibrant and evocative sentences propel you through this intense story, until the surprise ending leaves you breathless. This is a mind-blowing reading experience that you won't want to miss.

'A moving YA novel to be read in a single sitting.'

Volkskrant

'While the reader is guessing, Goldewijk cleverly intensifies the claustrophobic atmosphere, asking stimulating philosophical questions about reality and illusion.'

Trouw

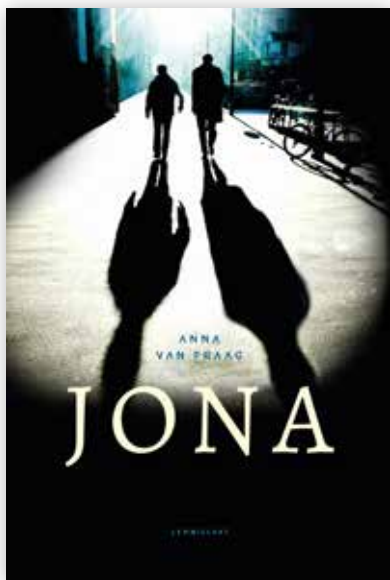
Photo: Yvonne Lacet



Yorick Goldewijk made a name for himself with the critically acclaimed *Films die nergens draaien* (2021, published in English as *Movies Showing Nowhere*), which is also a bold, idea-filled story that transcends time and space. His most recent title, *De boom die een wereld was* (The Tree that Was a World), is a dazzling collection of animal stories packed with playful and philosophical dialogues, illustrated by Jeska Versteegen, who creates glorious atmospheres with her amazing use of colour.

Jona

Anna van Praag



Jona
266 pages
14+

Rights

Lemniscaat
Robin van der Gaag
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- A modern teenager's life intersects with history
- Intergenerational Holocaust trauma
- Family secrets
- Sub-themes: gaslighting and Alzheimer's

Sixteen-year-old Jona's grandmother has dementia and talks increasingly often about her old love, Simon. But that wasn't Grandpa's name, and no one has ever heard of Simon. Who is she talking about? For a project at school, Jona decides to make a film about the subject. He has help from two classmates: the bossy blabbermouth Elin and the calm Lucas.

Then the story takes a very surprising turn as a family secret is revealed, which has an unexpectedly dramatic impact on Jona's life. Van Praag skilfully builds up the tension, almost as if in a thriller. Even after the big reveal, you want to go on reading so that you can find out exactly how everything fits together.

The backdrop to this is the tension surrounding Jona and his father, chillingly presented in the book's prologue: during an argument, the five-year-old Jona's mum runs out of the house without looking where she's going and is knocked down and killed by a car. The father then hisses at his little boy: 'Your fault.'

The complicated relationship between the loyal, somewhat anxious Jona and his strict father forms the hammering heart of this novel. Van Praag describes Pa's complex personality and Jona's emotional dependence on him in an intense yet nuanced way.

You can tell that the father loves his son and maybe even couldn't cope without him, but at the same time he controls him, isolating him and manipulating his emotions. Van Praag

A tense psychological YA novel about the impact of family secrets and memories on a teenager's life

suggests that this behaviour is rooted in an intergenerational Holocaust drama, the family secret and the loss of his wife.

Jona's emotions are ambivalent. Sometimes he feels close to his father, for example when they're performing religious rituals together, but he also feels hemmed in and belittled. The courtyard where they live strikingly illustrates this dichotomy: cosy or claustrophobic?

As the research for the project continues, Jona slowly detaches himself from his father, finally finds out more about his mother, and makes friends with Elin and Lucas, from whose perspectives we sometimes see events. Van Praag has written a gripping book about family relationships and the impact of secrets and memories on a teenager's life.



Anna van Praag has written more than twenty books for children and young adults, often with provocative themes. In recent years, she has focused mainly on psychological YA novels. *Jona* has been well received, immediately winning a place on the list of the top one hundred favourite children's books of all time in an annual Dutch poll. Two books by Anna van Praag have been translated into German.

'This book is original, this book is tender, and above all: this is a book that had to be written.'

Edward van de Vendel

'A very exciting and powerful YA novel.'

Radio 4, Book of the Week

Beware of Best Friends

Erna Sassen
& Martijn van der Linden



Neem nooit een beste vriend
256 pages
15+

Rights

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Rights sold

Freies Geistesleben Verlag
(Germany)

- The funniest book for young adults since *Adrian Mole*
- No subject is off-limits
- A clever mix of heartbreaking and hilarious

This hilarious, dazzling new YA novel by Erna Sassen is a provocative book. It's filled from cover to cover with bold words about love in a time when first love is perhaps more complicated than ever.

Sassen does not beat about the bush. Right from the start, she moves straight into top gear: at a birthday party, everyone in the class has to come as their favourite hot woman. Joshua dresses up as Beyoncé and, after much protest, the prudish kickboxer Dylan goes as the tough police officer from a TV show. Their classmate Lindsey, who everyone has a crush on, puts on a huge Kardashian-style butt. Joshua thinks Lindsey is so hot that she could just have come to the party as herself.

So far, so funny. But admitting to your real feelings? That's a bit trickier. Joshua, who would happily spend all day drawing girls, hasn't had sex yet, and he's terrified by Lindsey, who has suddenly decided that she wants him to draw her. Sergio, who, during the Covid epidemic, isn't ashamed to offer his body to anyone who feels the need to be touched, doesn't get what Joshua is so worried about.

Dylan is the opposite. He sees himself as Lindsey's guardian angel – and thinks that she's a saint. If anyone claims to have done it with Lindsey, he beats them up.

There probably hasn't been a YA novel since Sue Townsend's *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* that has made readers burst out into

Joshua, a sensitive budding artist, has no idea how to deal with tough Lindsey, who wants him to draw her

such uncontrollable laughter – possibly to the irritation of innocent bystanders.

This is also a beautiful book about vulnerability, thanks in part to the illustrations by Martijn van der Linden, who shows what Joshua puts in his sketchbook. The writer and the illustrator are equal partners, taking it in turns to tell the tempestuous and touching tale of four friends and love.

'Hilarious, relevant and impossible to pigeonhole. You can't get any closer to the inner world of a contemporary teenager.'

Het Parool

'Sassen masterfully peels away the loud exterior of her characters, exposing their touching inner worlds.'

Trouw

Photo: Wolfgang Schmidt



Erna Sassen made her debut as a children's author in 2004 and won the Gouden Lijst, a prize that later became the Gouden Griffel, the most important Dutch children's book award, for *Er is geen vorm waarin ik pas*. *Zonder titel* (2021), her first book about Joshua and his friends, was very well received, winning the prestigious Nienke van Hichtum Prize.

recent

This is a selection of recently published translations from Dutch. For more information please go to our online database of translations en.vertalingendatabase.nl



Nhện Anansi và con hổ đói
Iven Cudogham & Moldybyrd Studio (ill.)

Vietnamese translation by Nam Anh Đặng for Mam Nho, 2023. Original title: *Anansi de spin en de gulzige tijger*, published by Gottmer, 2020.



[Victorine]
Jet van Overeem & Annemarie van Haeringen (ill.)

Macedonian translation by Maja Lazarevska for Artkonekt, 2023. Original title: *Victorine*, published by Hoogland & Van Klaveren, 2021.



The Complete Jip and Janneke
Annie M.G. Schmidt & Fiep Westendorp (ill.)

English translation by David Colmer for Querido, 2023. Original title: *Jip en Janneke*, published by Querido, 2019 (1979).



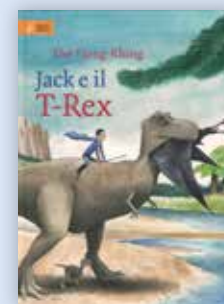
Vogel ist tot
Tiny Fisscher & Herma Starreveld (ill.)

German translation by Nicola Stuart for Jacoby & Stuart, 2023. Original title: *Vogel is dood*, published by Gottmer, 2022.



Le livre des gnomes
Loes Riphagen

French translation by Agnès De Ryckel for Versant Sud, 2024. Original title: *Het kabouterboek*, published by Gottmer, 2023.



Jack e il T.Rex
Thé Tjong-Khing

Italian translation by Anna Patrucco Becchi for Beisler, 2023. Original title: *Jake en de T.rex*, published by Leopold, 2016.



Siamo tutti diversi
Kim ter Horst

Italian translation by Anna Patrucco Becchi for Il Gatto Verde, 2023. Original title: *Allemaal anders*, published by Wilde Haren, 2020.



Girls
Annet Schaap

English translation by Laura Watkinson for Pushkin Press, 2023. Original title: *De meisjes*, published by Querido, 2021.



Sköldpadda och jag
Marit Törnqvist

Swedish translation by Marit Törnqvist for Rabén & Sjögren, 2023. Original title: *Schildpad en ik*, published by Querido, 2022.



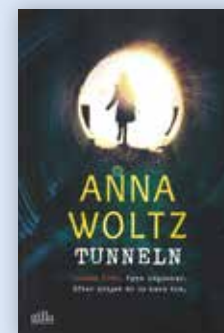
Le pietre nere
Guus Kuijer

Italian translation by Valentina Freschi for CameloZampa, 2023. Original title: *De zwarte stenen*, published by Querido, 1984.



[Lampadka]
Annet Schaap

Ukrainian translation by Iryna Koval for Crocus, 2023. Original title: *Lampje*, published by Querido, 2017.



Tunneln
Anna Woltz

Swedish translation by Joakim Sundström for Gilla Böcker, 2023. Original title: *De tunneln*, published by Querido, 2021.

yoo-hoo!



Djenné Fila