



Dutch Children's Books

Spring 2022

Dutch Foundation
for Literature

Colours! Light! Energy!

Don't we need them more than ever this spring of 2022, after two years of struggling with viruses?

We have all had to reinvent our ways of working and communicating. And, thankfully, books have continued to serve as a solid foundation both for our pleasure and for our working lives.

Words that resonate, words that create new worlds. Images that inspire and excite us. Books that provide comfort and books that surprise us.

I am happy to be able to present to you a wonderful selection of some of the best children's books that were published in the Netherlands in 2021.

In the belief that these books will enchant children – and adults – in your country too, we encourage you to take a closer look and to talk with us about them. We'd love to help you pick out some titles for your list.

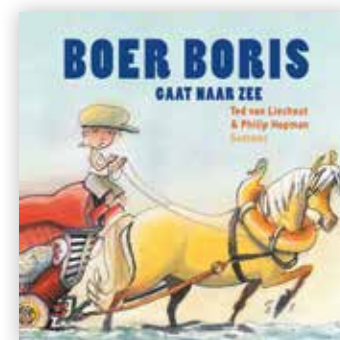
The Dutch Foundation for Literature would also be delighted to offer financial support to help you publish excellent translations.

Let's stay connected!

Agnes Vogt
a.vogt@letterenfonds.nl

10 years of Farmer Boris

Ted van Lieshout
& Philip Hopman



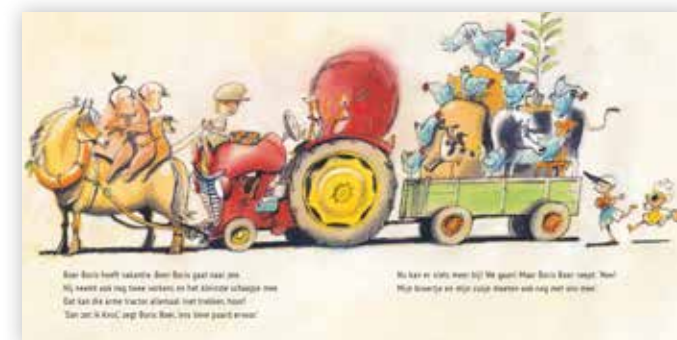
Boer Boris
Series of 15 books
32 pages

Rights
Gottmer
Mara Joustra
m.joustra@gottmer.nl

Rights sold
Chinese, Danish, German,
Macedonian, Russian

Ted van Lieshout
(b. 1955) is one of the most
celebrated children's writers in
the Netherlands.

Philip Hopman
(b. 1961) is a beloved Dutch
illustrator. He has illustrated
books for all the big names
in Dutch children's literature.



'Simply irresistible!'

Trouw

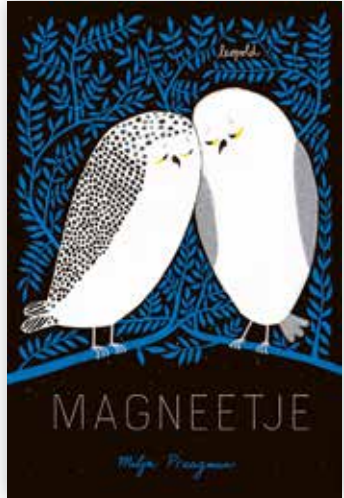
What began ten years ago with a simple counting book has grown to become an iconic picture-book series in the Netherlands, featuring playful stories of a consistently high quality. These stories are about Farmer Boris, a pre-schooler who has adventures with his brother and sister on and around his farm.

Life on the farm already appeals to young readers' imaginations, and Boris also gets to have lots and lots of fun – as his parents are nowhere to be seen. Boris looks after the animals and the land all by himself, cooks soup, bakes bread, and cruises around on a tractor. How cool is that? The smoothly rhyming texts – accessible, yet with rich vocabulary – and the fabulous pastel illustrations in Hopman's elastic style make this an irresistible series for reading aloud. There are now fifteen books in the series, including themed books for Christmas, Easter, winter, summer and birthdays. And over 500,000 copies sold in the Netherlands alone!

3+

Close

Milja Praagman



Magneetje
Poetry
48 pages

Rights
Leopold
Sophie Mulder
sophie.mulder@wpgmedia.nl

Rights sold
German

Milja Praagman
(b. 1971) studied graphic design. She then started creating illustrations for newspapers and magazines for adults and later for children's magazines. Praagman won a Zilveren Griffel for *Omdat ik je zo graag zie* (2016).



'A very successful collection for all ages.'

Friesch Dagblad

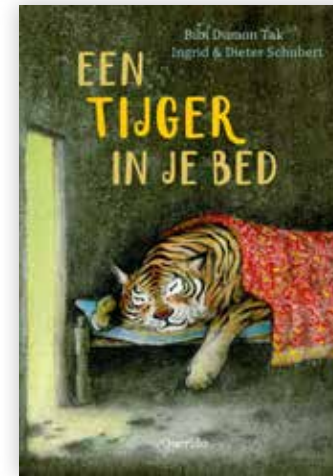
The illustrator Milja Praagman has another great talent: this book is her debut as a poet. On each two-page spread, she draws a different kind of animal and creates a cute poem to accompany it. For example, a recipe for an argument. Or a poem about two hippos in the bath: 'We fit, you and I', which is both sweet and funny.

In addition to humour, the poems have a lot of room for empathy and diversity. However, as with her other work, it is the design that really makes this book stand out: it is one of her best so far and shows that she is an artist through and through. Every picture has its own character and palette and yet is immediately recognisable as a Praagman. Each and every one of them could be a poster on the wall. In the classroom, for instance – which also happens to be a great place for poems.

2+

A Tiger in Your Bed

Bibi Dumon Tak
& Ingrid and Dieter Schubert



Een tijger in je bed
64 pages

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

Bibi Dumon Tak
(b. 1964) is the most highly acclaimed non-fiction author for children in the Netherlands.

Ingrid and Dieter Schubert
with their long and successful track record, are among the country's bestselling creators of picture books.

6+



'What a delight, this Tijgerlezen book!'

Boekwijzer

The Tijgerlezen series is made up of exciting and funny stories for beginning readers. Bibi Dumon Tak has added this electrifying non-fiction title to the list. In short, rhythmic sentences, she introduces the tiger to the reader. She does this with juicy facts about the tiger's hunting behaviour and its solitary life in the Asian jungle. But Dumon Tak offers more than handy information for talks at school. The book begins and ends with two incredible but true stories, including the thrilling tale of an Indian man who found a tiger in his bed one night.

Ingrid and Dieter Schubert, the internationally renowned illustration duo, have created realistic and cuddly tiger illustrations to go with the stories, once again demonstrating their skill. This is non-fiction that is both appealing and accessible for the youngest readers.

On the Back of Bigi Kayman

Henna Goudzand Nahar
& Hedy Tjin



Op de rug van Bigi Kayman
56 pages, 17 x 24 cm

Rights
Querido
Luciënne van der Leije
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Henna Goudzand Nahar
(b. 1953) was born in
Suriname and settled in the
Netherlands in the late 1980s.

Hedy Tjin (b. 1985) makes
wall paintings, illustrations
for national newspapers,
textile art and children's
books. She also created the
image on the cover of this
brochure.

'Hedy Tjin really shows what she can do here.'

JaapLeest

How do you write about the history of slavery for younger readers of 7 and up? Henna Goudzand Nahar does so by steering clear of the vast background story about the transatlantic slave trade. And she also doesn't mention that it was white people who enslaved black people en masse. This can only be deduced from Hedy Tjin's expressive felt-tip illustrations.

Goudzand Nahar chooses to write from the perspective of Afi and Kofi, two enslaved children growing up on Master Jan's Surinamese sugarcane plantation. In a simple but strong and effective text, she tells just enough to make it clear to young readers that enslaved people had very tough lives.

Afi, Kofi and their parents have to work hard, Master Jan puts all the money he makes into his own pocket, his family is allowed to sleep late and to wear shoes, but the enslaved people have to get up early and go around barefooted. Physical abuse also comes up briefly but without being carried out in the story: the children know that anyone who tries to run away is punished so severely that they can't walk anymore.

Even so, the two of them secretly decide to run away. Straight through the jungle, they head for the place in the swamp where escaped slaves live, in a reference to actual historical events in Suriname. According to a legend, the first runaways crossed the river on the back of a caiman. This is exactly what Goudzand Nahar has her protagonists do, while they sing the well-known Surinamese children's song 'Bigi Kayman'.

7+

Dutch Children's Books

4

Lennox and the Golden Sickle

Zindzi Zevenbergen, Brian Elstak
& Hedy Tjin



Lennox en de gouden sikkel
112 pages

Rights
De Harmonie
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Zindzi Zevenbergen
(b. 1990) works as a copy-
writer. *Lennox* is her first
children's book, and it has
delighted both the press and
the public.

Brian Elstak
(b. 1980) is an artist and
illustrator and makes graphic
novels and children's books.

'Elstak and Tjin entice you to take a really close look at the pictures.'

Trouw

Although Zindzi Zevenbergen's debut is about an invisible illness, the book itself is a real eye-catcher. The striking cover is wrapped around a text with an ingenious and surprising design, with some paragraphs printed at angles or vertically, so that you have to turn the book as you read it.

Two artists joined forces to create the vibrant illustrations. Hedy Tjin works in dramatic and expressive felt-tip colours, Brian Elstak uses watercolour and pen, skilfully capturing facial expressions in a sketch-like style. This combination results in a contemporary, dynamic look, which is reminiscent of street art and comic strips. The magic-realist story begins with a powerful sentence, which immediately reveals Zevenbergen's talent as a writer: 'Lennox wanted to become brave – and soon.' The usual things, like monsters, don't scare Lennox, but real things do, like the neighbour who always looks at him for too long without blinking.

At its core, the story is a simple one: Dad has gone to hospital for his invisible sickness – Lennox does not know exactly what is wrong with him – but he has left his lucky necklace with the golden sickle at home. Lennox decides to take it to him, even though he's a bit scared of hospitals.

Zevenbergen turns a story about an illness into more of a story about how not everything that goes on inside us or that is wrong with us can be seen on the outside – and, more important, how what we learn expands our horizons.

10+

Spring 2022

5

awards

The Netherlands' major awards for children's books in 2021

Woutertje Pieterse Prijs



Hele verhalen voor een halve soldaat

Benny Lindelauf
& Ludwig Volbeda
(Querido)

Gouden Penseel



Hele verhalen voor een halve soldaat

Benny Lindelauf
& Ludwig Volbeda
(Querido)

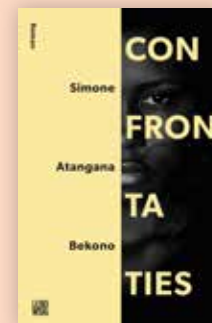
Gouden Griffel



Gozer

Pieter Koolwijk
& Linde Faas
(Lemniscat)

Beste boek voor jongeren



Confrontaties

Simone Atangana
Bekono
(Lebowski)

De Boon shortlist

De tunnel
Anna Woltz

Films die nergens draaien
Yorick Goldewijck
& Yvonne Lacet

Lennox en de gouden sikkkel

Zindzi Zevenbergen,
Brian Elstak & Hedi Tjin

Schaduw van Toet
Lida Dijkstra & Djenné Fila

Zilveren Griffels



Er lag een trommeltje in het gras

Edward van de Vendel
& Sanne te Loo
(Querido)



Beste broers

Jowi Schmitz
(Hoogland
& Van Klaveren)



Hele verhalen voor een halve soldaat

Benny Lindelauf
& Ludwig Volbeda
(Querido)



De gemene moord op Muggemietje

Ted van Lieshout
(Leopold)

Zilveren Penselen



Vuilnisvarkens Job en Bob

Tjibbe Veldkamp
& Noëlle Smit
(Gottmer)



Gloeï

Edward van de Vendel
& Floor de Goede
(Querido)



Maar eerst ving ik een monster

Tjibbe Veldkamp
& Kees de Boer
(Lemniscat)



Die kleine is Don, de lange is Sjon

Catharina Valckx
(Querido)



Wonderbos

Jan Paul Schutten
& Medy Oberendorff
(Lannoo)



Gloeï

Edward van de Vendel
& Floor de Goede
(Querido)



Mensen met koffers

Sjoerd Kuyper
& Annemarie van Haeringen
(Hoogland
& Van Klaveren)



Alles wat was

Stine Jensen
& Marijke Klompemaker
(Kluitman)

The Little House by the River

Selma Noort



Het kleine huis bij de rivier
208 pages
14.8 x 21.5 cm
Sample translation available

Rights
Leopold
Sophie Mulder
sophie.mulder@wpgmedia.nl

Yussuf's family live next door to one another in a number of houses by the river. His tough grandma is the centre of the family, along with her brother, who is mainly interested in his pigeons, and her son and daughter, each with a partner and child. They all get along well, and life is calm and peaceful in the shade of a pear tree.

Yussuf's mother was pregnant with him when she fled Syria. In the shelter, she fell in love with a handyman, who became Yussuf's dad. Yussuf and his cousin Amber love being in the countryside. They swim in the river, go for bike rides and accidentally dig up the skeleton of a dog. Life seems to be without a care – until the accident, which is already revealed on the first page.

A lorry crashes into Yussuf's bedroom. He is seriously injured, and the house is no longer fit for them to live in. This triggers bad memories of the war for Yussuf's mother, now that her house has been destroyed once again. It is a literal and figurative blow that has a huge impact on the family. Amber says she always hoped that nothing would ever change. Grandpa Roekoe understands exactly what she means. That's what he used to think too. 'But,' he says, 'nothing stays unchanged.' What is most important, in his opinion, is that they all stay together. Their tranquil and stable life in the little houses by the river has been disrupted, but that, too, is something that can change.

Noort tells a life lesson with great ease and original images

The Little House by the River is a story that is told calmly and peacefully, in a warm and nostalgic countryside setting, while at the same time touching upon important topical issues, such as war and security. The city, which is advancing into the countryside and leading to compulsory purchases and relocation, also plays a role.

But this book is mainly about the impact of change and the resilience of people. Noort shows with extreme precision how a life can be thrown off course, but how that can also mean a new beginning. With her dazzling dialogue and inner monologues, she lays bare the inner thoughts of these children.

'What makes the book so special? The carefully constructed story and the strong way in which Noort portrays her characters.'

Het Parool

'A beautiful, authentic generational portrait of a close family.'

Nederlands Dagblad



Selma Noort (b. 1960) has been a children's writer for more than forty years and has written over 120 books in various genres for children of all ages. Her books have been published abroad, including in Germany and Denmark, and have won many awards. *Eilandheimwee* and *Mag ik even je spook lenen?* both won Zilveren Griffels. She won the prestigious Thea Beckman Prize for the best historical children's book for *De zee kwam door de brievenbus*. In another recent title, *Koningskind* (2020, 12+), which was nominated for the Woutertje Pieterse Prize, she told the Biblical story of King Solomon from a surprising new perspective.

Maths for Life

Edward van de Vendel,
Ionica Smeets
& Floor de Goede



Rekenen voor je leven
275 pages
17 x 23.5 cm

Rights
Nieuwezijds
Elaine Michon
elaine@elami-agency.com

Writer Edward van de Vendel, illustrator Floor de Goede and the most famous mathematician in the Netherlands, Ionica Smeets, have joined forces to show how closely life and maths are connected, in this book told from the perspective of a primary-school class.

The starting point for this sparkling book is the class's dissatisfaction with maths. The children think their lessons are totally boring and old-fashioned. 'What do those sums have to do with our lives?' they wonder. Their teachers come up with a suggestion for alternative lessons: every week, one of the twenty-two students is allowed to devise a maths question based on their own life.

In enthusiastic language, Van de Vendel then sketches a lively picture of a happy and diverse class. All the children and their life stories are featured, and Smeets bases fun maths lessons on them. For example, Romée wants to know, as she is trying to wash away her first heart-break in the bath, if it's possible to fill a bathtub with tears. Patrick, whose dad is a pilot, asks the question: 'What if someone built a bridge from the Earth to the moon and we started walking now, would we get there before we're old?' And Jens, who is struggling to cope with his divorced mum and dad, wants to know how many houses there would be for refugees if all divorced parents moved back in together.

The clear explanations are humorously presented in De Goede's comic-style illustrations, as he imaginatively plays with reality. For Sven's

A unique combination of a warm-hearted story about a school class and arithmetic fun in comic-book form

question about whether peeing in the shower is good for the environment, we see a cartoon of the teacher peeing, but also a visual explanation of the average person's water usage per day, illustrated with icons of showers, toilets and washing machines. And when the class calculates how much people could lift if they had the strength of ants, we see the teacher raising a small elephant over his head!

The arts of storytelling and maths and words and pictures are effortlessly combined in this wide-ranging book. No one will ever find maths boring again.

'A lively, varied, and above all very cheerful ensemble book.'

NRC Handelsblad

'A playful and energetic book, in which numbers and children come to life.'

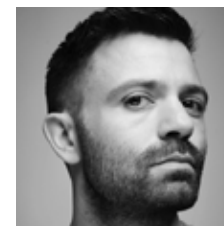
JaapLeest

Photo: Jota Chabel



Edward van de Vendel (b. 1964) is a multitalented writer who delights his readers and has won nearly every literary prize going. There is no children's writer in the Netherlands with such a diverse oeuvre as Van de Vendel. He writes prose, poetry, picture books and non-fiction, also combining these genres to create new narrative forms.

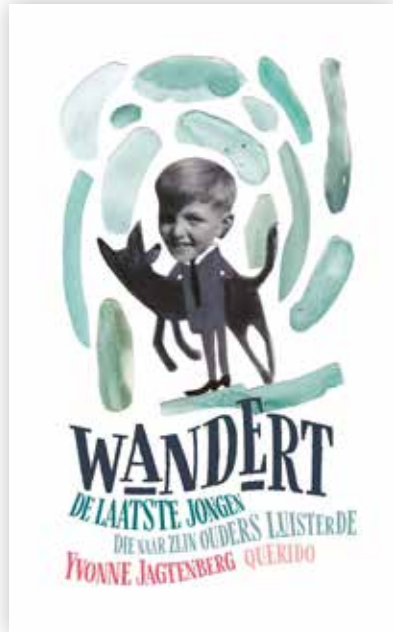
Photo: Diederick Bulstra



Floor de Goede (b. 1980) is well known as the cartoonist Flo and has been an illustrator of children's books since 2008, when he made his first collection of comic-strip poems with Edward van de Vendel: *Opa laat zijn tenen zien*. They have collaborated on fourteen projects so far: from the cheerful series about Sofie and her animal friends to the highly acclaimed title *G/oei*, for which Floor made portraits of the 21 young adults who were interviewed.

Wandert, the Last Boy Who Listened to His Parents

Yvonne Jagtenberg



Wandert, de laatste jongen die naar zijn ouders luisterde
176 pages
12,5 x 20,5 cm
Sample translation available

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

Wandert wants to be a performer, just like his piano-playing dad. But his dad says no. His mum doesn't think it's a good idea either. Not only is it difficult to make money with art, but performers are often dangerous womanisers. No, Wandert is going to have to come up with a different idea.

The post-war 1950s are the setting for this YA novel, which Yvonne Jagtenberg based on her father's younger years.

Wandert spends a lot of time alone. When his dad isn't teaching, he's performing. Wandert's mum often goes with him – to make sure he's not looking at other women. She also visits her sisters nearly every day. Wandert uses that time to come up with ways to lead an artist's life in secret, sneakily smoking his first cigar – in front of the window, where the whole neighbourhood can enjoy the sight – and starting a back-room dance school with his friend Franz and inviting two pretty girls to come and learn to dance. He even gets to perform at a circus.

The title might sound ironic, but Wandert really does faithfully do what his parents expect of him. This sometimes results in comical scenes, but the longer the story goes on, the more a tragic undertone can be heard. On the one hand, Wandert is a very ordinary boy who likes to play football and brag about girls, but on the other hand he was clearly destined for different things.

The story of an ordinary boy who is destined for different things

Wandert would like to learn how to read music, but his father doesn't want him to be brought into temptation. The question becomes more and more pressing: why won't they just let him do his own thing?

Luckily, Wandert always finds a way. Wandert has instantly become one of the most distinctive and endearing characters in Dutch children's literature, which is already so rich in appealing figures.

'A flawless book.'

Trouw

'It reads as if you're watching a movie.'

NRC Handelsblad



Yvonne Jagtenberg (b. 1967) became known to pre-schoolers and their parents with her quirky and independent picture-book heroes Balotje and Herman, characters with a tough and infectious contrary nature. She trained as a teacher before going to study at the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten, an art school in Arnhem. She started work as an artist and soon chose to work in the field of children's books. Jagtenberg received the Charlotte Köhler Stipendium for her oeuvre and participated in *Dutch Treats* at the Eric Carle Museum in New York in 2006. In 2019 and 2020, she won the Gouden Penseel two years in succession, the top Dutch prize for the best illustrated book.

Movies Showing Nowhere

Yorick Goldewijk



Films die nergens draaien
256 pages

Rights
Ploegsma
Sophie Mulder
sophie.mulder@wpgmedia.nl

Her mum has been dead, almost to the exact minute, for as long as twelve-year-old Cato has been alive. Since his wife's death, her dad has hidden himself away. The rebellious Cato becomes angrier and angrier about having to live in a world where she and her mum cannot both exist.

That gives this ambitious novel a strong emotional impact. Cato is an engaging, vibrant character, the smooth text has many beautiful turns of phrase, and the plot is ingenious. Cato finds a business card from Mrs Kano's Cinema on her dad's piano, with the slogan 'movies showing nowhere, though you wish they were' and the address of an old cinema that has been empty for years. So, of course, she decides to go and take a look.

At the dilapidated cinema – a wonderful place that appeals to the imagination – Cato meets a mysterious woman. And when Cato touches the cinema screen, it turns out to be liquid – it's like dipping her fingers into a puddle of milk. She gradually discovers that the screen is a gateway to memories.

Goldewijk has reimagined the idea of time travel in this book, in a fantastically original way. The beauty is that he keeps the magical aspect minimal, giving it a clear function in the larger human story about Cato's struggles. Her experiences at the cinema bring about change in her difficult relationship with her dad and help her – in a very moving scene – to come to terms with her mother's death.

An enchanting time-travel story about a girl who misses her dead mother

This book, with its admirably inventive plot, tells a compelling and beautiful story about daring to embrace life, even when it is painful.

'A children's novel of ideas. [...] Goldewijk not only challenges his readers to look at things in a different way than they're used to, he is also confident that they will succeed.'

Het Nieuwsblad

'An adventure story that, because of its emotional layers, will also linger with the reader for a long time.'

De Standaard

Photo: Yvonne Lacet



Yorick Goldewijk (b. 1979) is a newcomer to Dutch children's literature. He has composed music for advertisements, films and games and made his debut as an author in 2019 with the adventure *Billy Extra Plankgas*, for children of 8 and up. A year later, this was followed by a sequel, and he collaborated with his wife, illustrator Yvonne Lacet, to create the picture book *Hier zijn draken*, which has been published in Spanish, Korean and Italian. His ambitious children's novel *Films die nergens draaien* (Movies Showing Nowhere) has received enthusiastic reviews and in January 2022 it made the shortlist for the Boon, the biggest children's book prize in the Dutch-speaking countries.

You Can See the Whole World from Here

Enne Koens



Vanaf hier kun je de hele wereld zien
216 pages
22.2x15.8 cm

Rights
Luitingh-Sijthoff
Irina Formichev
irina@sharedstories.nl

Enne Koens's new book reads like a detective novel, with the author deftly casting out the lines of her story. Once again, she has written a sensitive children's novel full of colourful figures.

Nine-year-old Deetje is the daughter of a single mother who has little in common with her, in terms of both appearance and character: 'If you got our cards in a game of Snap, your turn would be over,' she observes. And it's starting to bother her. Why does Deetje have brown skin and her mum doesn't? She must be adopted. Or stolen – Deetje has a vivid imagination, which often runs away with her. Like the day when she finds a letter with 'return to sender' on it, which was written to someone who is missed very much. The original address has been scribbled out and the sender's name is illegible. Deetje senses a mystery and, together with her best friend Vito, she goes out to investigate.

The events take place in and around Deetje's block of flats, which she thinks a great place, one she can see the whole world from. During the search for the person the letter was sent to, Deetje and Vito find their way into the homes of various residents. Their stories are melancholy, sometimes heartrending mini-books within the book – but they don't include the person the letter was sent to. That person turns out to be closer to Deetje than she suspects: the letter leads her to her own roots and to long-hidden family secrets. In a touching conclusion, the

A young girl discovers her roots and long hidden family secrets

mother and daughter, who seem so different, become closer to each other.

Koens's casual style, with original observations and well-chosen metaphors, effortlessly takes the reader into the thoughts of this nine-year-old. This is a writer who understands how a child's mind works. Her empathetic style ensures that this new book by Koens is, once again, a pleasure to read.

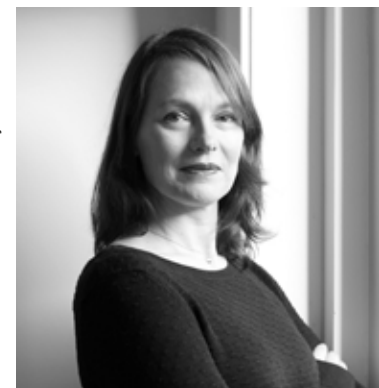
'Enne Koens writes about missing someone in flowing, sensitive language full of beautiful parallels.'

Trouw

'Koens's style is relaxed, with beautiful and original observations.'

Het Parool

Photo: Neeltje Anita de Rover



Enne Koens (b. 1974) originally worked in the theatre but has made a name for herself as a writer of psychological children's books that are characterised by their light tone. Koens made her debut as a children's author with the highly acclaimed *Vogel* (2011). Her next book, *Sammie en opa* (2013), won a Vlag en Wimpel, and *Hotel Bonbien* (2015) was nominated for the Flemish Boekenleeuw award. In 2017 Koens received the Charlotte Köhler Stipendium as a promising early-career author. *Ik ben Vincent en ik ben niet bang* (2017) was nominated for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis and *Die zomer met Jente* (2019) won a Vlag en Wimpel.

Terra Ultima The Discovery of an Unknown Continent

Raoul Deleo



Terra Ultima. De ontdekking van een onbekend continent
80 pages
27 x 37 cm

Rights

Lannoo Publishers
Liesbeth De Bruyne
liesbeth.debruyne@lannoo.be

Rights sold

Danish, French, Spanish

Animal species are dying out at a rapid pace, but *Terra Ultima* is actually adding new ones – like the canary bee, the flamingo deer, the turtle jellyfish, and the golden-edged frog beetle. Two familiar species have been combined to make new ones, which this book presents in fantastically beautiful illustrations.

Terra Ultima is the account of several expeditions to an imaginary continent. Biologist Noah J. Stern describes how he came into possession of the archive of the explorer Raoul Deleo and how he made a selection of the drawings and diary entries. He supplies background information, connects the excerpts and provides frequent ironic commentary on Deleo's experiences. When Deleo writes that he saw mouse carp swimming through the sand, Stern remarks, 'I put it down to sunstroke.'

Deleo's book looks like an encyclopaedic work of reference and is published in a large format, with maps, newspaper articles and an index. The yellowing pages make it extra authentic. The prints featuring the fantasy animals are anatomically precise and astonishingly believable. They are provided with Latin names and explanatory texts that are very convincing. About the butterfly chickadee: 'Throughout the course of the year, its skull grows and shrinks. The growth takes place in the two months when it is building up stocks for the winter. The more hiding places it needs to remember, the bigger its head becomes.'

A feast for the eyes, thanks to Deleo's dazzling, encyclopaedic watercolours and pencil drawings of exotic animals

Everything in this book is made up but it is presented in such a serious way that readers will come to believe this continent with its amazing creatures must really exist. At the same time, questions and confusion abound. Did Raoul Deleo really undertake these journeys?

The combination of captivating descriptions and bizarre illustrations results in an unconventional book that will appeal to children and adults alike. This is imagination taken to the extreme, delivered with a combination of seriousness and plenty of humour. *Terra Ultima* is unique in its design and concept.

'Far and away the most beautiful book I've set eyes on this year.'

Tzum

'A sight to behold.'

Trouw

'A cheerful interplay between science and fiction.'

Het Parool

Photo: Lenny Oostervijk



Raoul Deleo (b. 1968) is a freelance illustrator who works mainly for magazines. He has won a number of awards for his illustrations. Together with the author Auke Hulst, he created the book *De eenzame snelweg* in 2007, a travelogue following the route of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*. He did the illustrations on a roll of paper about thirty metres in length. Raoul Deleo worked on *Terra Ultima* for twenty years. The prints have been exhibited at the Natural History Museum in Rotterdam.

Under the Waves

The Story of Doggerland

Linda Dielemans & Djenné Fila



Onder de golven.
Het verhaal van Doggerland
184 pages

Rights
Fontaine
Jiska Koenders
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Linda Dielemans takes her readers to the bottom of the North Sea, where around a million years ago there were forests and people roamed around. This passionate archaeologist alternates between fascinating non-fiction chapters and exciting fictional accounts. Supported by Djenné Fila's evocative pictures, this results in a vivid depiction of the place known as Doggerland.

The starting point for this book is well chosen: a mammoth's tooth that Dielemans found while on a beach walk near The Hague. And she explains that her find wasn't just a fluke. Prehistoric bones and tools often turn up in the sand from the seabed that is used in Dutch coastal-protection schemes: irrefutable evidence that people once lived where the North Sea now reigns.

Covering a period of a million years, Dielemans gives a clear and enthusiastic account of how successive ice ages and warmer periods changed Doggerland and how, just like now, people had to adapt to climate change. She does not shy away from complex matters such as the concept of carbon dating. At the same time, she draws the reader in with fascinating historical facts. Who doesn't want to find out about hippos swimming to England through the Strait of Dover 100,000 to 125,000 years ago? Or about the volcanic eruption in Southern Germany around 13,000 years ago, or how ancient reindeer hunters decorated their tools with zigzag lines?

An exciting history of a drowned land, which also appeals to readers' imaginations

Fila, who has provided beautiful illustrations of archaeological finds and rugged landscapes in appropriately earthy colours, repeats this zigzag art on every page, symbolising the unifying power of history. Dielemans also subtly emphasises this sense of continuity: every fictional story begins where the previous one ended. Her sensual language stands out. As night falls, for example: 'the moon rises, its pale light stroking our skin.' The scene in which a nomadic clan comes to 'the soft land' is evocative too: 'It smells different,' someone remarks. 'Green and fresh but also brown and musty at the same time. [...] And when I look down, I see mud curling up between my toes.' This brings our ancestors very close.

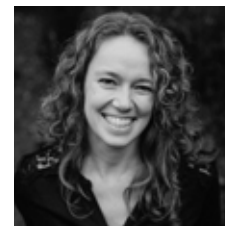
'Dielemans has the talent of explaining complex matters in an appealing and comprehensible way without becoming simplistic or losing sight of nuance.'

Mappalibri

'Linda Dielemans - what a storyteller!'

de Volkskrant

Photo: Annelien Nijland



Linda Dielemans (b. 1981) studied archaeology and is one of the Netherlands' most important writers of historical books for young people, with a focus on prehistory. She cleverly combines her skills as an accessible and visual storyteller with her talents as an enthusiastic archaeologist and a careful interpreter of facts. Dielemans received various literary awards for *Schaduw van de leeuw* (2018) and *Brons* (2019).

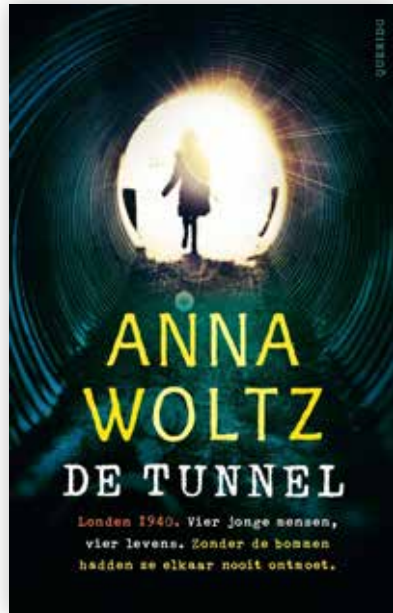
Photo: Stan Heerkens



Djenné Fila (b. 1995) is a rising star. Since her 2019 debut in children's books with *Het beest met de kracht van tien paarden* (written by Lida Dijkstra), Fila has been making a name for herself with her colourful mixed-technique illustrations.

The Tunnel

Anna Woltz



De tunnel
231 pages

Rights
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l.van.der.leije@singeluitgeverijen.nl

Rights sold
German

In striking images and evocative language, Anna Woltz writes from a young person's perspective to tell an exciting and empathetic wartime story that is set in London during the Blitz – with the London Underground as a backdrop, a plot that is driven by the urge for freedom and independence, and friendship, love and courage as universal themes.

It is September 1940. The constant nightly bombing by the Luftwaffe has set London ablaze. The city is in chaos. Together with polio survivor Ella (14), you see how 'every evening the sun seems to set on the wrong side' and 'the eastern sky glows a fiery orange'. You smell what is happening as the port and warehouses go up in flames, and you can feel the threat of the unexploded bombs. 'The world seems to be made of glass. One wrong movement and everything will collapse,' says Ella, already literally and figuratively thrown off balance by her polio-damaged leg. At night, she hides out in the Underground with her brother Robbie, in a deep tunnel. They are joined by the opportunistic street kid Jay, and later by the free-spirited Quin, who has fled her aristocratic existence, and her brother Sebastian. Their common fate proves stronger than their apparent class differences, and a tentative friendship grows between them, one that will define their lives.

The threat of war and the claustrophobic conditions underground cleverly take on a double meaning when it turns out that, as a polio patient, Ella had to lie in a tunnel-shaped

A captivating wartime novel in which style, plot, action and psychological depth are in perfect balance

breathing machine in order to survive. 'Breathing isn't something you can practise,' she says. 'There is no shallow water, no summer's day without Messerschmitts. If you get it wrong, you're a goner.' The prologue already reveals that one of the friends will die – but which one will it be?

The war gets the adrenaline pumping and makes Ella unexpectedly courageous. The air-raid siren howls ominously, but ever since she tore up her storybook full of adolescent 'foolish hot-air balloons' and Quinn taught her that 'the world is bigger than our parents think', she no longer wants to wait passively. She may have a limp, but she can choose: 'I want to know what's coming next. And soon. And tomorrow.' The adventure that follows leaves an indelible impression.

'Energetic language, true-to-life characters, gripping scenes and blunt but beautiful insights into self-determination.'

Trouw

'Exciting, realistic, at times heartrending, but also funny, romantic and bursting with beautiful little phrases.'

Algemeen Dagblad

Photo: Carli Hermes



Since Anna Woltz (b. 1981) made her debut in 2003 with *Alles kookt over*, she has grown to become one of the leading children's authors in the Netherlands, who is among the best of her generation and is loved by critics and readers alike. 'My goal is to get children to read good books without them noticing,' is her motto. Her surprisingly varied oeuvre is characterised by a sophisticated writing style, strong plots and realistic characters and has won a number of awards: *Honderd uur nacht* (2014) won the Nienke van Hichtum Prize in 2015, *Gips* (2015) won the Gouden Griffel in 2016 and *Alaska* (2016) received a Zilveren Griffel.

The Girls

Annet Schaap



De meisjes
148 pages
14x17 cm

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English, German, Russian

Annet Schaap selected seven fairy tales as the basis for this dazzling collection of stories. Two Perraults, five Brothers Grimm. But these are certainly not faithful adaptations. Schaap takes what she can use from the old stories and then follows her own path.

In Schaap's retellings, Gretel's brother Hansel becomes a sister, and Sleeping Beauty also gains a sister, who plays a crucial role in the tale. Nothing remains of the cardboard cut-outs from the fairy tales; Schaap's characters are true to life. They may like to daydream about princes on horses 'as white as their teeth', but these are tough figures who do not allow themselves to be cowed by lazy kings or negligent fathers. These girls don't need any princes to rescue them; with their desire for freedom and for recognition, they save themselves.

Not that this is a feminist pamphlet, though. Schaap's imagination is boundless, her style is flawless. These are stories that draw you in and then leave you feeling a little melancholy. Because although they are based on fairy tales, which typically end with everyone living 'happily ever after', this book paradoxically reads like a plea not to believe in fairy tales. If the book makes one thing clear, it is that the heroes of fairy tales are vastly overrated. Princes on horses as white as their teeth? They don't exist. As a girl, you're better off settling for a frog or a sailor with a stubbly chin – they'll be of more use to you.

In *Lampie*, Annet Schaap demonstrated her magical talent for storytelling. This book shows that she is no one-hit wonder

In just a short period of time, Schaap has developed into one of the most original children's writers in the Netherlands. This latest book is narrative art at the exceptionally high level of authors such as Paul Biegel and Benny Lindelauf. And yes, *Lampie*, too. Schaap's woodcut-like black-and-white illustrations complete the book.

'Poetic, contemporary and with an enormous drive for storytelling.'

NRC Handelsblad

'Romantic and matter-of-fact, both funny and grim: these are extremes that Annet Schaap reconciles effortlessly in this beautiful fairy-tale collection.'

Het Nieuwsblad

Photo: Bonnita Postma



Annet Schaap (b. 1965) studied at two art schools and was for a long time best known as the illustrator of books by successful authors such as Francine Oomen, Janneke Schotveld and Jacques Vriens. She has since gained international acclaim as the author of the enchanting adventure *Lampje* (Lampie, 2017). This book was promptly labelled a classic after publication and received rave reviews. Schaap won all the major children's books prizes in the Netherlands and also received a number of awards in other countries, including a place on the shortlist for the Carnegie Medal. The rights have since been sold to 22 countries and more than 130,000 copies have been bought in Dutch-speaking areas.

Untitled

Erna Sassen
& Martijn van der Linden



Zonder titel
256 pages
14 x 21.3 cm

Rights
Leopold
Sophie Mulder
sophie.mulder@wpgmedia.nl

Rights sold
German

Joshua, a talented artist, has recently transferred to the vocational education system and is trying to fit in among the other students, who would rather be working with punchbags than watercolour paper. His biggest worry is that he'll become a punchbag himself.

That looks like it might be on the cards when Joshua makes friends with the tough guy Sergio, who steals his sketchbook. Luckily, it's not the one he used for his drawings of his friend Zivan, who he's also in love with.

Zivan has fled her native country and is in danger of being sent back there by her family to get married. She runs away at first, finding refuge in a shelter, but later gives in and leaves, much to Joshua's frustration. How can he tell Sergio and his pals, who hit first and ask questions later, what he's trying to say with his pencil and brushes?

The book is an emotional rollercoaster. The feelings around the farewell and loss are huge, while the descriptions of the ups and downs in his new class are extremely funny. The tension between these two barely compatible forces clears the way for Sassen to write very frankly about differences that could prove irreconcilable.

One hilarious scene occurs when Joshua and Sergio's class visits the Rijksmuseum to see *The Night Watch*, the nightmare of every parent and teacher. However, his new friends are unexpectedly impressed by the art – and even by Joshua's drawings. And Joshua learns that his

An emotional rollercoaster

kickboxing classmates might have just as rich an emotional life as he does.

This is both a sketchbook and a novel. Writer and illustrator Martijn van der Linden act as equal partners, taking it in turns to tell the story of Joshua and Zivan. This makes reading the book an adventurous experience.

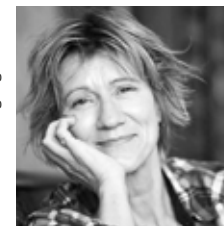
'There are few authors who dare to write such raw, challenging and brutally honest YA books as Erna Sassen.'

Trouw

'A remarkably courageous book.'

De Morgen

Photo: Wolfgang Schmidt

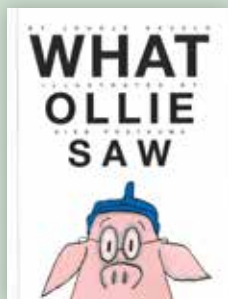


Erna Sassen (b. 1961) studied at the Theaterschool in Amsterdam and began her career as a radio producer and actor, including in musicals and as a nurse in a popular Dutch TV series about a hospital, making her debut as a YA author in 2004. She won the Gouden Lijst for her book *Er is geen vorm waarin ik pas*, an award that later merged with the Gouden Griffel, the most important Dutch children's book prize.



Martijn van der Linden (b. 1979) is a prolific artist, known for his striking style, which is always recognisable and yet constantly changing. His work, which has also achieved recognition abroad, has won awards including the Gouden Penseel and the Woutertje Pieterse Prize.

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



What Ollie Saw

Jolkje Akveld & Sieb Posthuma (ill.)

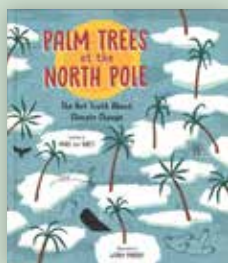
English translation by Bill Nagelkerke for Levine Querido, 2021. Original title: *Olle wist zeker dat hij geen bril nodig had*, published by Van Goor, 2012.



[(You are the Loveliest)]

Hans & Monique Hagen & Marit Törnqvist (ill.)

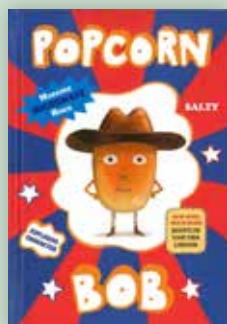
Persian translation by Hadi Mohammadi for IRHCLI, 2021. Original title: *Jij bent de liefste*, published by Querido, 2000.



Palm Trees at the North Pole

Marc ter Horst & Wendy Panders (ill.)

English translation by Laura Watkinson for Greystone Books, 2021. Original title: *Palmen op de Noordpool*, published by Gottmer, 2018.



Popcorn Bob

Maranke Rinck & Martijn van der Linden

English translation by Nancy Forest-Flier for Levine Querido, 2021. Original title: *Bob Popcorn*, published by Querido, 2019.



Sbrigati Carl!

Loes Riphagen

Italian translation by Matteo Francini for Edizioni Clichy, 2021. Original title: *Kom mee, Kees*, published by Gottmer, 2021.



Jeannot et Jeannette

Annie M.G. Schmidt & Fiep Westendorp (ill.)

French translation by Emmanuèle Sandron for Format, 2021. Original title: *Jip en Janneke*, published by Querido, 1979.

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For more information please visit www.letterenfonds.nl or contact children's books specialist Agnes Vogt, a.vogt@letterenfonds.nl.

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IS COMING
YOUR WAY..

♥ HEDY TJIN