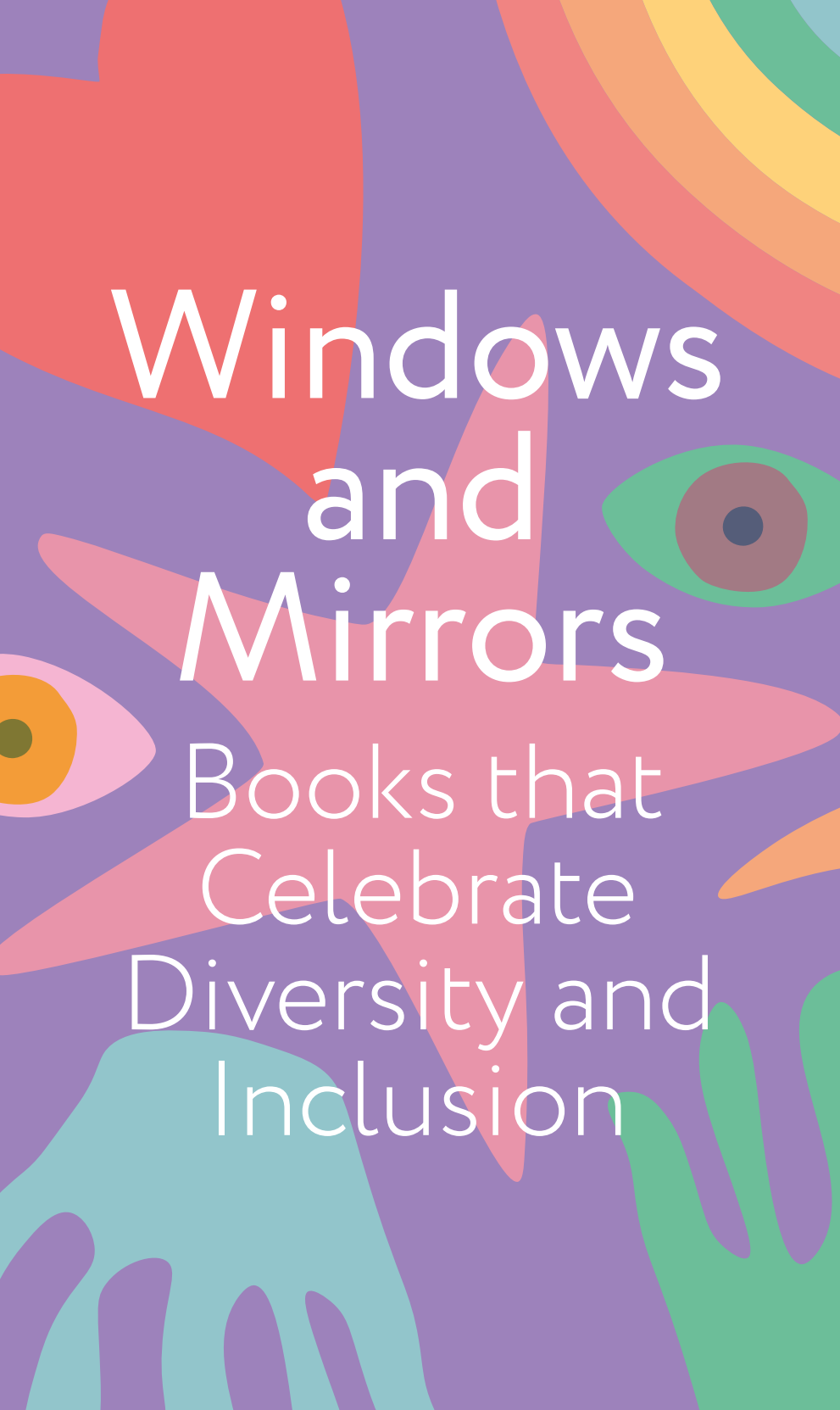


The background is a vibrant, abstract composition. It features a large, stylized eye on the right side with a green iris and a dark brown pupil. Another eye-like shape is visible on the left with an orange-yellow center. A rainbow arches across the top right corner. The background is filled with various organic, flowing shapes in shades of purple, pink, red, and teal. The text is centered over this background.

Windows and Mirrors

Books that
Celebrate
Diversity and
Inclusion



No child needs to feel left out

Diversity and inclusion in children's books are important for everyone. For children who belong to a minority, in terms of e.g. gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religion or health, books can form mirrors that make them feel comforted, supported and maybe less isolated. And for all children, books can open windows into worlds they don't yet know. Such books can broaden their understanding, deepen their respect and increase their empathy.

Within Dutch children's literature, voices resound that are often drowned out in the wider social context. This brochure presents twelve titles in which these different voices speak up loud and proud. These are beautiful, powerful and sometimes funny stories that celebrate life in all its diversity. They are books that ensure no child needs to feel left out.

Title ***A Thousand and One Purple Djellabas / Duizend-en-één paarse djellaba's*** (2020)

Authors **Lisa Boersen, Hasna Elbaamrani**
Illustrator **Annelies Vandenbosch**

Pages **32** / **895** words
Publisher **Gottmer**
Rights manager **Sascha Duijvestein / foreignrights@gottmer.nl**

A clever mix of culturally specific and universal elements.



Esmā goes with her parents, brothers and sister to visit family in Morocco. Their suitcases are full of chocolate and jars of peanut butter. When they arrive in Morocco, they also receive some gifts: Esmā gets a pair of pretty slippers, and her mother is given a purple djellaba. Wearing their new outfits, they head straight for the market.

In this book, Lisa Boersen and Hasna Elbaamrani cleverly mix culturally specific elements with something that is familiar to children and adults all over the world: Esmā loses her mum at the market. Water carriers, acrobats, a fortune teller and a man with a monkey come to the rescue with a clever plan. As a result, Esmā doesn't find her mum – her mum finds *her*.

Annelies Vandenbosch has drawn the bustle of the north African market with vivid and evocative details and in lots of shades of purple. The Griffel Jury awarded a Vlag en Wimpel to this sunny tale.

Children's writer [Lisa Boersen](#) (b. 1975) collaborated on this story with programme designer [Hasna Elbaamrani](#) (b. 1984), who, with her Moroccan roots, aims to bring greater diversity to the world of children's books.

The illustrations are by the Flemish [Annelies Vandenbosch](#) (b. 1988).



Title ***Where Is My Noodle Soup?!? / Waar is mijn noedelsoep?!?*** (2019)

Authors **Chee-Han and Reza Kartosen-Wong**

Illustrator **Maria Koutamanis**

Pages **32**
 Publisher **Rose Stories**
 Rights manager **Chafina Bendahman / chafina@rosetories.nl**

An international parade of delights that will make you long to try these dishes for yourself.



Sam-Ming loves school, but maybe even more than that he loves the noodle soup his mum and dad give him for lunch. But... when Sam-Ming opens his bag to take out his soup, it's not there! He looks around in despair: where is his noodle soup?

That is the question at the heart of this cheerful picture book from Rose Stories, a collective of storytellers who want to make people see things differently with their books. Sam-Ming goes to talk to all his classmates, asking them if they've seen his soup. No one has. But they do show Sam-Ming their own lunches. The reader is treated to an international parade of delights: from Greek gemistá and Surinamese pom to Turkish dolmas and Dutch pancakes. Maria Koutamanis has captured this culinary story in mouth-watering illustrations that make you long to try these dishes for yourself.

Chee-Han (b. 1981) and Reza Kartosen-Wong (b. 1973) are children's writers who are committed to creating a more inclusive media landscape.

Maria Koutamanis has illustrated their second picture book too: *Gebakken rijst met van alles en nog wat!!!*



Al dat gespeel en geleer is heel leuk.
 Maar Sam-Ming krijgt er ook héél véél trek van.
 Zijn maag rommelt al.
 Gelukkig begint de middagpauze zo.
 Tijd om te smullen van zijn lunch. Yes!

Sam-Mings vader en moeder geven hem altijd iets lekkers mee voor de lunch.
 Vandaag is het noedelsoep, zijn lievelingseten.
 Daar droomt hij zelfs vaak van.
 Sam-Ming pakt zijn rugtas en zoekt een plek om te gaan smullen.



Sam-Ming vindt het zelig voor Louise.
 En eigenlijk wil hij ook wel eens wat anders dan noedelsoep.
 Hij heeft wel zin in wat pannenkoeken.



Sam-Ming en Louise besluiten hun noedelsoep en pannenkoeken te ruilen.
 Wat een goed idee!
 Gezellig smikkelen ze van elkaars eten.
 En ze worden de allerbeste vrienden.

Title **Get On Your Bike! / Ga toch fietsen!** (2014)
 Author **Joukje Akveld**
 Illustrator **Philip Hopman**

Pages **30 / 577** words
 Publisher **Querido**
 Rights sold **Danish (Turbine) / English (Eerdmans) / French (La Joie de Lire) / Spanish (Loquelo/Santillana)**
 Rights manager **Lucienne van der Leije / Lvan.der.leije@singeluitgeverijen.nl**

A wonderful story about two married men, about how arguments can be part of a happy relationship.



'Ah, go and ride your bike!' shouts Willem the dog in an argument with his husband, Boese the panda. In Dutch, that means something along the lines of 'Just go away! Figure it out for yourself!' Boese climbs onto his bike and lets himself be carried away by the traffic. Slowly, he forgets about the argument and starts to marvel at the breathtaking landscape he encounters, beautifully illustrated by Philip Hopman. But then Boese misses Willem and heads home. Akveld makes this story about an everyday altercation feel very real. She demonstrates that arguments are part of life and love. On the last page, we see that this is a loving relationship between two men. Their wedding photograph is on the dresser. The text and illustrations complement each other perfectly, as Akveld and Hopman show that Boese and Willem's marriage is just as ordinary – and as remarkable – as any other marriage.

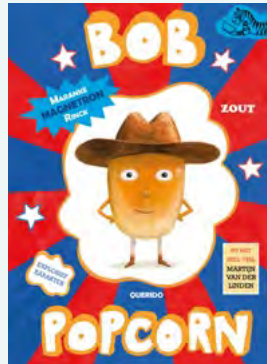
Joukje Akveld (b. 1974) writes about children's books for the Amsterdam newspaper *Het Parool*. She also creates her own books, particularly about her great love: animals.

Philip Hopman (b. 1961) is one of the best-known and most successful Dutch illustrators. He has won various awards, including a Zilveren Penseel for *22 wezen* (1999). Recently, he received the Max Velthuis Prize, awarded once every three years, for his oeuvre.



Title **Bob Popcorn** (2019)
 Authors **Maranke Rinck**
 & **Martijn van der Linden**

Pages **172** / **7,208** words
 Publisher **Querido**
 Rights sold **German (Schaltzeit Verlag) /**
English (Levine Querido)
 Rights manager **Luciënne van der Leije /**
L.van.der.leije@singeluitgeverijen.nl



Ellis has two dads
 – and that's not an
 issue. It's simply a
 fact.

Ellis has two dads, and she loves popcorn. One day, when she puts some popcorn kernels in the microwave, two little arms and two little legs come popping out of one of them. Ellis never knew pieces of popcorn could look so angry, but this one does. He introduces himself as Bob Popcorn.

With their successful series about Bob Popcorn, Maranke Rinck and illustrator Martijn van der Linden have created an irresistible character who turns Ellis's life upside down with his unpredictable moods. The creators balance nicely on the line between fantasy and reality. It's not an issue that Ellis has two dads – it's just a fact. That makes her a thoroughly modern girl. At the same time, the reader is drawn into a world where the imagination reigns supreme, thanks to Ellis's hilarious, explosive friend.

Maranke Rinck (b. 1976) and Martijn van der Linden (b. 1979) made their debut in 2004 with the picture book *Het prinsenkind*, which became an international hit. This was followed by other successful picture-book collaborations, such as *Tangramkat*,

which won awards including a Zilveren Griffel and a Gouden Penseel.



Title **Miss Unicorn /
Miss Eenhoorn** (2020)
Author **Edward van de
Vendel**
Illustrator **Floor de Goede**

Pages **73 / 3.944** words
Publisher **Querido**
Rights manager **Luciënne van der Leije /
L.van.der.leije@singeluitgeverijen.nl**

A humorous
story about being
different and
daring to stay true
to yourself.



In this book, an endearing bunch of losers of a beauty contest join forces. Ayla, Juultje, Tinker & Swing and Miep are disqualified from the contest because they are a zebra (striped), pony (too small), stallions (boy horses) and a seahorse (way too small). The five of them decide that this is not fair – and they fight back.

Van de Vendel has gone to town with silly qualifying rounds and vain presenters, writing a humorous and at times touching book about being different, daring to stay true to yourself and real friendship. Because ultimately that's what unites this mixed assortment of participants: the unconditional support they find in one another.

Floor de Goede, originally a comics artist, provides the perfect match for this story with his cartoonish drawings, lending the book all the appeal of an animated film. With its cheerful exuberance, this is a layered book about inclusivity and the precarious nature of fame.

No other Dutch children's writer has created such a large number of books of such a consistently high quality as [Edward van de Vendel](#) (b. 1964). His work encompasses fiction, non-fiction, poetry and picture books for readers from 3 to 15+.



Title ***Mishka / Misjka***
(2022)
Author **Edward van de Vendel & Anoush Elman**
Illustrator **Annet Schaap**

Pages **150 / 15,523** words
Publisher **Querido**
Rights manager **Luciënne van der Leije / L.van.der.leije@singeluitgeverijen.nl**

An Afghan girl tells her pet rabbit – and her schoolmates – about her experiences as a refugee.



With the YA novel *De gelukvinder* (2008), about Hamayun and his family's escape from Afghanistan, Edward van de Vendel caused a sensation from Norway to Mexico. This book, based on the life story of Anoush Elman, now has a stand-alone sequel for younger readers. This time it is Hamayun's younger sister, Roya, who is at the centre of the action. When, after years of bureaucratic limbo, the family receives permission to stay in the Netherlands, they decide to get a pet: Mishka. To help the dwarf rabbit get to know her, Roya tells him her story, an abbreviated version of *De gelukvinder*. But then Mishka goes missing...

Van de Vendel beautifully mirrors the difficult journey from Afghanistan to the Netherlands in the missing rabbit's wanderings. With understated colour illustrations by Annet Schaap, the creator of *Lampie*, this new Van de Vendel is once again another book to treasure.

The work of the multitalented Edward van de Vendel (b. 1964) has won numerous awards, including the Woutertje Pieterse Prize (twice), fourteen Zilveren Griffels, the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis

and five nominations for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.



Title ***The Dive / De duik***
(2014)
Author **Sjoerd Kuyper**
Illustrations **Sanne te Loo**

Pages **176**
Publisher **Lemniscaat**
Rights sold **Papiamento (Charuba) / Turkish (Final Culture and Arts Publishing)**
Rights manager **Robin van der Gaag / rechten@lemniscat.nl**



A gem of magical realism set on the colourful island of Curaçao.

For this work of magical realism, Sjoerd Kuyper found inspiration on the island of Curaçao. He organised his thoughts in emails to his children, with songs, a monologue, a newspaper article. That was how the form of the book came about: 'a love letter to the island of Curaçao, in 25 genres,' as one reviewer wrote. The focus is on 11-year-old Roly and Mila. They are looking for Roly's dad, who has disappeared. Run off with another woman, scoffs Roly's mum, but the reality turns out to be more exciting: Roly's dad is lost in time. Ever since he dived under the pontoon bridge at new moon, he has been missing. Roly and Mila decide to bring him back to the present.

Masterfully, Kuyper combines diary excerpts, film scripts and comics to create a flowing and sparkling story, in which the perspective is constantly shifting. Sanne te Loo's dreamy watercolours reinforce the atmosphere of magical realism, transporting the reader to the enchanting colours of Willemstad.

In 2012, [Sjoerd Kuyper](#) (b. 1952) was awarded the Theo Hijssen Prize for his extensive oeuvre, which has been translated into many languages. People of colour also play the leading roles in his touching 'Maantje' stories for pre-schoolers.

[Sanne te Loo](#) (b. 1972) firmly established her reputation as an illustrator with *De duik* (The Dive).



10+

Title **Beginners /
Beginnelingen** (2022)
Author **Joke van Leeuwen**

Pages **251**
Publisher **Querido**
Rights manager **Luciënne van der Leije /
l.van.der.leije@singeluitgeverijen.nl**

Twenty-nine
portraits of bravery,
ingenuity and
persistence.



This book presents 24 portraits of non-conformist individuals, with Joke van Leeuwen focusing on their youth. Their achievements as adults appear only in separate text boxes. The author chose her characters from all over the world, throughout history and from a variety of disciplines. There are artists and directors (Frida Kahlo, Ingmar Bergman), sports heroes (Pelé) and champions of freedom, equality and children's rights (Sojourner Truth, Anton de Kom, Janusz Korczak).

The refreshing selection, which steers away from a Eurocentric perspective, combines with Van Leeuwen's light and easy touch as she deals with difficult events to set this book apart from similar collections. It also helps that all the people portrayed by Van Leeuwen have something subversive about them. They dared to think outside the limitations of their own eras and to perform remarkable deeds. These portraits of bravery, ingenuity and persistence are a source of inspiration for everyone.

Joke van Leeuwen (b.1952) is a writer, illustrator, stage director and performer with an exceptional, award-winning oeuvre. A constant in her work is the headstrong and open-minded characters who find their own way in a complex world.

11+

Title **Island Days /
Eilanddagen** (2016)
Author **Gideon Samson**

Pages **166 / 41,888** words
Publisher **Leopold**
Rights sold **German (Gerstenberg) /
Russian (Polyandria) /
Slovenian (Miš Založba)**
Rights manager **Sophie Mulder /
sophie.mulder@wpgmedia.nl**

A captivating love
triangle described
in deceptively light
sentences.



Three children – two boys and a girl – spend an endless summer on a Greek island. This book is about the unbearable lightness of a friendship that is more than a friendship. Puck is Miech's girlfriend, but they let Jakob go with them as they explore the island. 'Swimming, cycling, climbing, walking, riding donkeys and lots and lots of laughing, especially laughing, laughing all the time. (...) These are dream days for the three of them.'

Although this begins as a summery, carefree story, it can't stay that way. The generosity of the two young lovers, Miech and Puck, in allowing Jakob to tag along leads the three of them into a grey area, as he becomes involved in their budding relationship. From that point, the close-knit team of three begins to shake, before bursting apart with a bang.

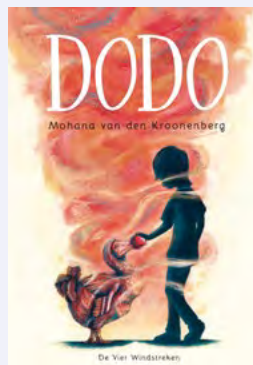
With his vibrant style, Gideon Samson sketches an intimate picture of these young adolescents, in a sophisticated story about a love triangle, written in deceptively light sentences.

Gideon Samson (b.1985) writes fiction for children. Since his award-winning debut, his work has won many awards, including the Gouden Griffel for *Zeb*.

11+

Title **Dodo** (2022)
 Author **Mohanna van den Kroonenberg**

Pages **136**
 Publisher **De Vier Windstreken**
 Rights manager **Nathalie Bierhuizen / nathalie@vierwindstreken.com**



A touching debut about a young stutterer who becomes isolated.

After a failed getting-to-know-you session in the first year of high school, when Dorian can't say anything more than a faltering 'Do-do', he decides to remain silent. When he sees a stuffed dodo in a museum shortly afterwards, it triggers something inside him. Dorian steals a rare dodo egg, gets it to hatch and develops a close bond with the chick.

Dodo is a touching debut about a young stutterer. An interesting feature is that stuttering is never explicitly mentioned. However, except for two 'Dodo's, Dorian does not say a word throughout the entire book. The reader is caught up inside this boy's inner turmoil and insecurity. Dorian thinks back to the summer with his friend Ramses and how perfect it was, until everything went wrong. With Dorian's limitless imagination, Dodo becomes his new focus, but eventually he has to return to reality. In an unsentimental conclusion, he finds a satisfying way to deal with his speech impediment.

Mohanna van den Kroonenberg (b. 1967) is a sculptor and has previously written a collection of stories for adults. *Dodo* is her debut for children and has been showered with praise.

14+

Title ***Girl from Mars / Meisje van Mars*** (2011)
 Authors **Anna Woltz & Vicky Janssen**

Pages **165 pages / 36,914 words**
 Publisher **Querido**
 Rights sold **Norwegian (Cappelen Damm) / Slovenian (Miš Založba)**
 Rights manager **Luciënne van der Leije / Lvan.der.leije@singeluitgeverijen.nl**



An insightful look at a young person's struggle with gender dysphoria.

Evert loves mermaids, Barbies and his sister's dresses. As a preschooler, he hated his penis, and he dreams of having a smooth body, like the girls he knows. Evert wants to be a girl like that himself. But his parents send him to football and forbid him to grow his hair.

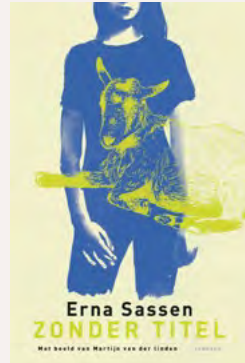
Anna Woltz based this book on the life of Vicky Janssen, who knew at an early age that she had been born in the wrong body and underwent sex-reassignment surgery so that she could live as a woman. With Evert, Woltz gives a voice to a child's struggle with gender dysphoria. In a direct, documentary-like style, she describes the difficulties between Evert and his parents, the bullying at school and how he eventually finds his way into the medical world that helps him to become who he always was.

Anna Woltz (b. 1981) writes compelling children's novels about strong and independent characters. Her books have been translated into 24 languages. *Gips* won the Gouden Griffel.

Title **Untitled / Zonder titel**
(2021)
Author **Erna Sassen**
Illustrator **Martijn van der Linden**

Pages **192 pages / 38,089 words**
Publisher **Leopold**
Rights sold **German (Freies Geistesleben)**
Rights manager **Sophie Mulder / sophie.mulder@wpgmedia.nl**

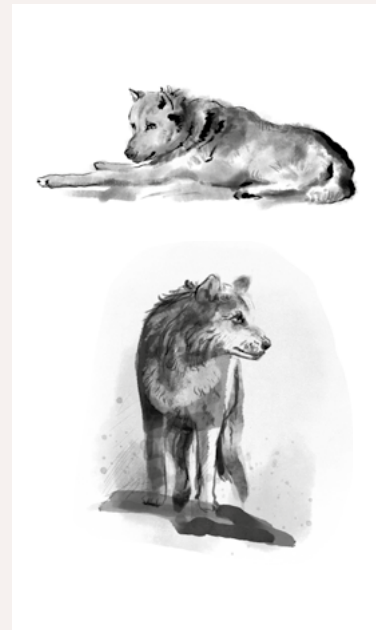
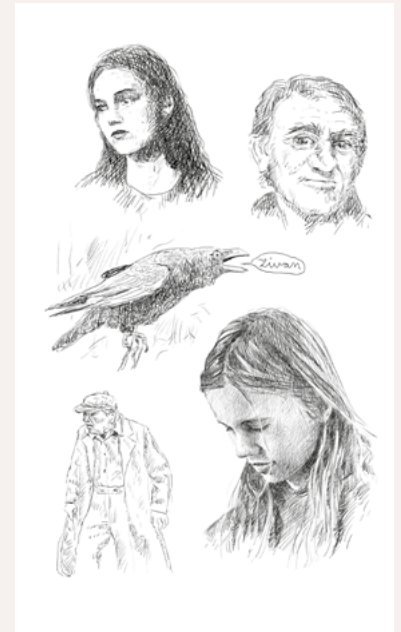
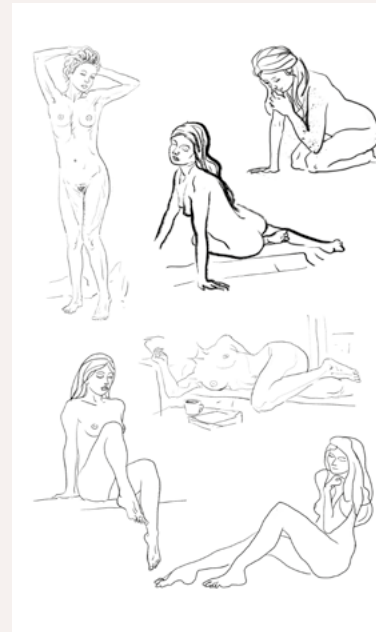
Growing up
between two
cultures and having
to choose between
family and friends.



For as long as 15-year-old Joshua can remember, Zivan has been his best friend. But then she moves to Iraq, where her father marries her off to her cousin. Joshua has no further contact with her. This book reads like a cry of despair, in which all his pain, anguish and frustration resound. In his misery, Joshua battles on with self-mockery and sarcastic humour. He is a boy who would rather doodle than do homework. His sketchpads are full of pictures of Zivan. These drawings were done by Martijn van der Linden, an illustrator who is constantly breaking new ground with his skill and incredible versatility, which he demonstrates here with his convincing teenage style.

Erna Sassen's young protagonists' language is full of exclamations, swearwords and dark humour, yet she always touches on essential themes. This is a book about growing up between two cultures and choosing between loyalty to your family and your friends. It is YA literature of the best kind.

Erna Sassen (b. 1961) writes raw and gripping YA novels that crackle with emotion. Her books have received a great deal of acclaim from critics and expert juries.





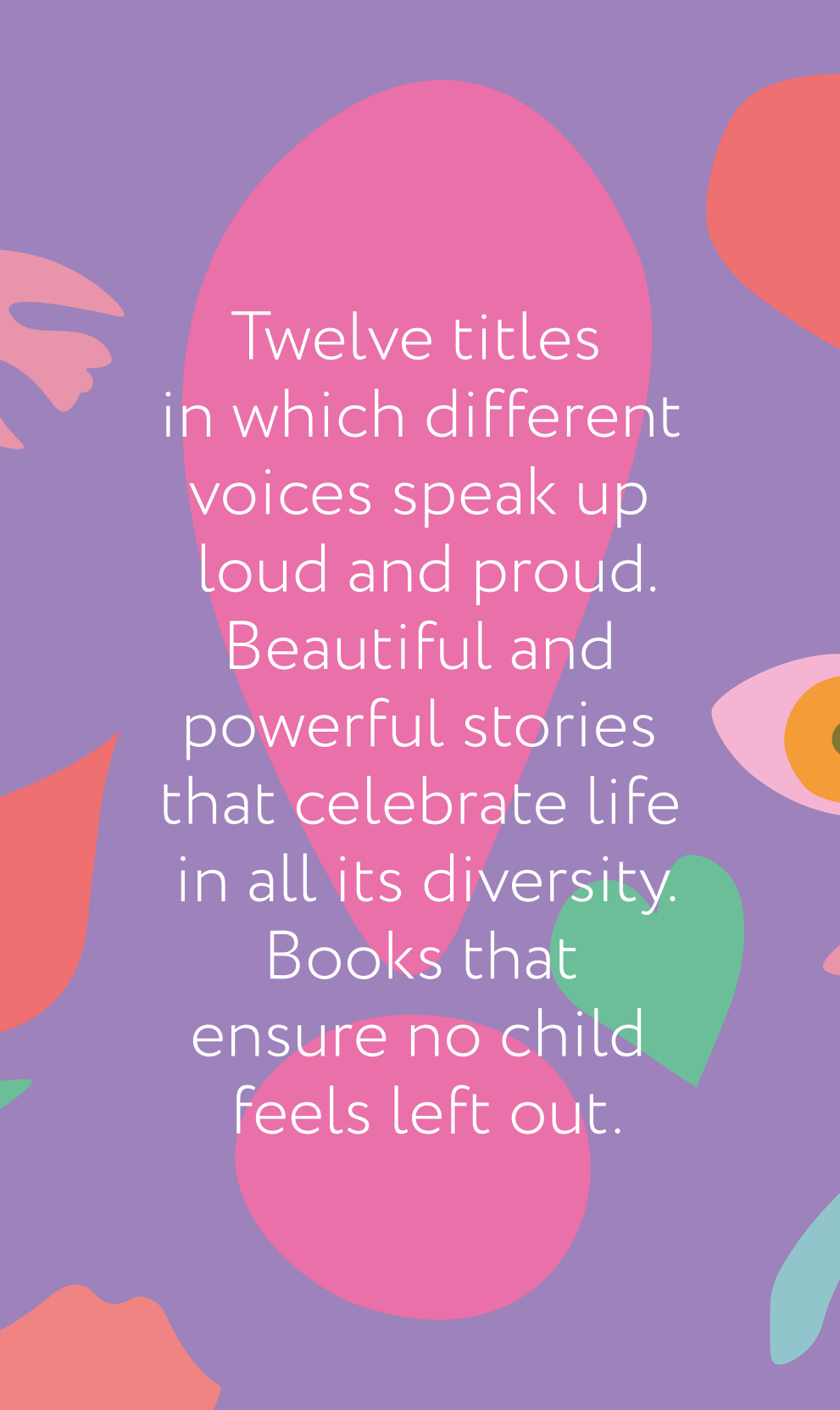
Windows and Mirrors is published by the Dutch Foundation for Literature.

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 financial support is possible.

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

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Wilco Art Books**



The background is a solid light purple color. It is decorated with several large, abstract, organic shapes in shades of pink, magenta, and orange. On the right side, there is a stylized eye with a yellow-orange iris and a black pupil. At the bottom right, there is a small green heart shape. The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic.

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in which different
voices speak up
loud and proud.

Beautiful and
powerful stories
that celebrate life
in all its diversity.

Books that
ensure no child
feels left out.