

Children's Books from Holland



Nederlands
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dutch foundation
for literature

Spring 2015

Sieb Posthuma (1960–2014)

Art by Sieb Posthuma is instantly recognisable. Whether he was cutting, pasting, drawing or painting, his illustrations are always stylised, brightly coloured and gently humorous. His drawings are framed by a shaky black brushstroke or the edge of a page, but you can feel that there's a whole world beyond them. It's as if the viewer is given the opportunity to peep through a window into a world where different laws apply, a place inhabited by life-affirming characters where the sun shines just a little bit brighter.

Sieb Posthuma passed away in summer 2014, at the age of 54. The artist, writer and theatre designer, who is regarded in Holland as one of the greatest talents of his generation, left behind a highly acclaimed body of work, including a large number of picture books.



As a creator of children's books, Posthuma first became known for his stories about Rintje, his fox terrier. The fictional Rintje was the alter ego of his young self, a young boy approaching the world with an open mind and enjoying safe, child-sized adventures. The ink and Ecoline illustrations that Posthuma made to accompany those stories are packed with fun doggy details.

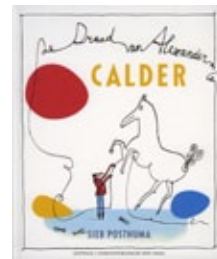


Later, Posthuma allowed himself more experimentation in his work. He used a collage technique to create *Little Mister Coat*, a picture book he wrote about a man who is so cold that he puts on coat after coat – until he finds love and no longer needs the warmth of a coat.

In 2008, he employed the same method to illustrate the book of fables *Up in a Green Lime Tree Sat a Big, Fat Rooster*. In the words of the jury who awarded it with the Gouden Penseel, this was an “outstanding book in which form and content merge at the highest level”.



Posthuma won this highest distinction again for his illustrations accompanying Annie M.G. Schmidt's poems in *A Pond Full of Ink*. Schmidt's habit of rooting her poems in reality and then adding a striking twist of dissonance was a perfect match for Posthuma's tongue-in-cheek humour. “A riot of colour full of mystique and absurdism,” wrote the jury.



Compared to these two award-winning books, *Alexander Calder's Wonderful Wire* represents a reduction of Posthuma's palette and compositions – a reduction, but not an impoverishment, as the simple line drawings filled mainly with primary colours have great eloquence. This picture book is a homage to artist Alexander Calder and is at the same time about Posthuma's own artistry.



Finally, with his picture books about *Little Captain Kidd*, written by Marjet Huiberts, and Princess Laurentien's books about *Mr Finney*, Posthuma added another two memorable characters to his body of work.

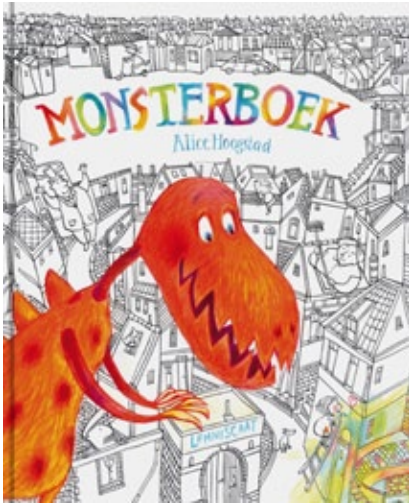


Posthuma once said that art, for him, was a place you could go to find energy. When life isn't great, there are still beautiful pictures to look at. Sieb Posthuma left a body of work that is packed with beautiful pictures.

Alice Hoogstad

Monster Book

A wordless picture book full of masterful monsters



A black-and-white town becomes more and more colourful as a little girl sets off for a walk with her sticks of chalk. Minutely detailed illustrations transform into a riot of colour.

Everyone in this quaint little town is busy, all except for the girl with her pockets full of chalk. As she wanders through streets made of black lines, she leaves a trail of colourful pictures, which come to life behind her back. Monsters are her speciality. But the adults in the town don't want anything to do with her imaginary creatures. They fight off the intruders with garden hoses and parking tickets, but the children think they're excellent fun.

In Alice Hoogstad's charming wordless picture book, a little girl refuses to be penned in by the black-and-white lines of authority. With her bright colours and her imaginative pictures, she shows how to transform a colourless world into a place that's cheerful, exuberant and inviting – a triumph of the imagination.

Alice Hoogstad (b. 1957) has been illustrating children's books since the late 1980s, collaborating with great children's authors such as Rindert Kromhout, Mirjam Oldenhave, Hans Kuyper and Guus Kuijer. *Monster Book* is Hoogstad's first picture book without words.

Author Alice Hoogstad
Age 3+
Pages 32
Publisher Lemniscaat
Contact
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Rights sold
 English (Lemniscaat USA), Danish (Turbine), Italian (Il Castello), Korean (Picture Book Gongjacks), Turkish (Büyülü Fener)

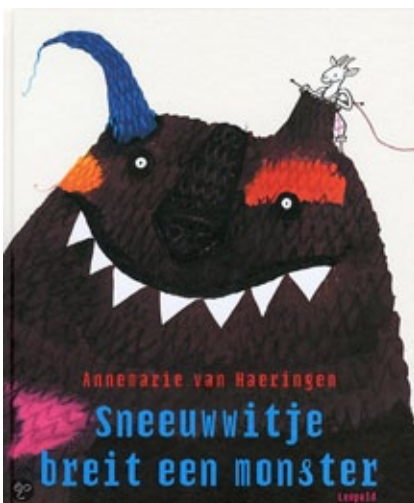
An exceedingly imaginative, monstrously good picture book.
 – *Sneins Petiele*

There are so many fun details hidden in the illustrations. The dynamic compositions create tension and drama.
 – *NBD*

Annemarie van Haeringen

Snow White Knits a Monster

Cheerful fairy tale elements in a charming story about monsters



Following the international success of *Coco, or the Little Black Dress*, Annemarie van Haeringen has created another gem with this sparkling ode to the imagination.

Snow White the goat happily knits away, making goat-wool socks, until, one day, animals begin to slide from her knitting needles. Cuddly little goat kids are all very nice, but when a wolf appears and gobbles down Mrs Sheep in one bite, Snow White quickly has to knit up an even more dangerous creature to take care of the wolf.

Annemarie van Haeringen has created a picture book full of exciting monsters, so that young readers can safely enjoy a good scare. The story contains playful allusions to fairy tales. When Snow White knits goat kids, there are seven of them, just like in the story by the Brothers Grimm, and the door of the closet where she runs to hide looks a lot like the grandfather clock of the songs and nursery rhymes. This is a picture book about the power of the imagination, with the comforting message that whatever you make up, you can also undo.

Annemarie van Haeringen (b. 1959) is a three-time winner of the Gouden Penseel award for the best illustrated children's book of the year. Picture books form the core of Van Haeringen's body of work, which she often writes herself, like last year's award-winning *Coco, or the Little Black Dress* about fashion icon Coco Chanel.

Author Annemarie van Haeringen
Age 4+
Pages 32
Publisher Leopold
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Rights sold
 Danish (Turbine)

An original monster story (...) drawn with plenty of movement, as Van Haeringen does so very well.
 – *Trouw*

Such an imagination, such excitement – and such a sense of humour!
 – *Juryrapport Leespluim*

Daan Remmerts de Vries

Sometimes I Leave You Behind for a Little While

An eloquent picture book about a girl and her toy bear



This colourful read-aloud story with expressive pictures gently tells how a young girl overcomes her separation anxiety by playing an imaginative game.

It's a simple game, but it's still tense and exciting: a toddler leaves her bear behind in the wood and pretends she's forgotten him. Bear misses her. He feels "empty". And he gets scared when he meets the wild bears in the wood. But the girl thinks "it's good to be a little bit scared". The game doesn't go on for too long and they're both delighted to see each other again.

The crisp text harmonises beautifully with the pictures. The illustrations, a mixed technique of watercolour and collage, wonderfully support the story and offer perspective, with the images and colours reflecting Bear's state of mind. One beautiful example is the transition from dark to light as Bear finds his way through the depths of the forest and bravely heads into the unknown.

Sometimes I Leave You Behind for a Little While perfectly captures the mind of a toddler, with imagination, an urge to explore, and affection all subtly wrapped up together.

Daan Remmerts de Vries (b. 1962) is a doubly talented, award-winning writer and illustrator. He has written around forty books, for young and old. His acclaimed picture books really stand out, with their distinctive collages and mixed technique.

Author Daan Remmerts de Vries

Age 4+

Pages 32

Publisher Querido

Contact

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Daan Remmerts de Vries's picture books are touching. [...] Sometimes I Leave You Behind for a Little While is another little gem.
– Noord-Hollands Dagblad

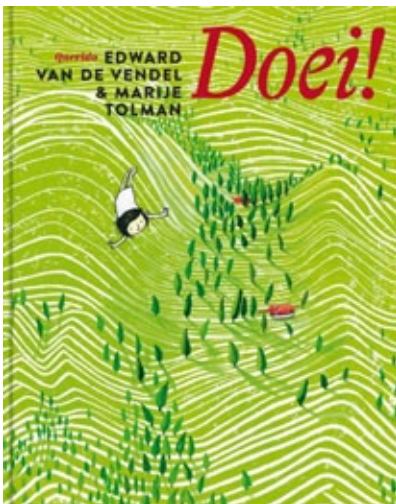
A sweet and subtle story with clever twists, about the world as seen by a little girl, in which her perspective is beautifully articulated.

– Jaap leest

Edward van de Vendel & Marije Tolman

See Ya!

A glorious picture book about the comforting power of the imagination



See Ya! is a gentle story about a little girl called Marie, who playfully helps to chase away her big brother Ben's nightmares.

Unlike Ben, Marie always falls asleep without any worries. She has sweet dreams that inspire her fun and games the following day. Jealous of Marie's imagination – "It's not real!" scoffs Ben – he stops joining in with his little sister's bedtime ritual and damages their trust in each other.

The short, evocative sentences were written by Edward van de Vendel, who deftly captures the teasing yet ultimately affectionate relationship between this brother and sister. Marije Tolman's illustrations tell so much of the story, too. Her clever combination of linocuts, drawing and painting creates a dream landscape. Her expressive use of colour lends every illustration its own atmosphere.

It's beautiful to see how Marie's dream world, alternately spring green, bright red and deep blue, contrasts with Ben's universe of black and grey – until Marie takes Ben along with her and his life fills with bright and sunny yellow.

Illustrator **Marije Tolman** (b. 1976) made a name for herself internationally with the award-winning wordless picture book *The Tree House* (2009), which, like *The Island* (2012), she created together with her father.

See Ya! is her first collaboration with acclaimed author **Edward van de Vendel** (b. 1964), who writes prose and poetry, fiction and non-fiction for young and old.

Author Edward van de Vendel

Illustrator Marije Tolman

Age 5+

Pages 40

Publisher Querido

Contact

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English sample available

This little story is masterfully illustrated by Marije Tolman.
– Jaap leest

Joukje Akveld &
Philip Hopman

On Your Bike

When we're a little bit angry with someone, we might tell them to go away and say, "On your bike!" But what happens when you take that expression literally?



When Bobby the panda and William the dog have an argument, William says to Bobby, "Go on! On your bike!" So Bobby gets onto his bike and goes for a long, breath-taking ride through the town and countryside.

At every stoplight, he heads whichever way is green at that moment and so he ends up further and further away from home. Gradually, though, he forgets about the argument and, as he becomes hungry, he starts to wonder how William is doing.

Akveld creates a small and wonderfully familiar tale out of something as ordinary as a quarrel, while Hopman's illustrations are among his best work, as he turns the bike ride into something large and expansive, cheerfully incorporating references to the work of his favourite artists: David Hockney, Rembrandt, Ed van der Elsken and many others.

Joukje Akveld (b. 1974) studied Dutch and has worked for various publishing houses. As a journalist, she writes about children's books and theatre for newspapers and magazines, while also writing her own books.

Philip Hopman (b. 1961) is one of the best-known and most successful contemporary illustrators in the Netherlands. He has won a wide range of prizes, including a Zilveren Penseel for 22 *Orphans* (1999).

Author Joukje Akveld

Illustrator Philip Hopman

Age 5+

Pages 32

Publisher Querido

Contact

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Rights sold

Danish (Turbine)

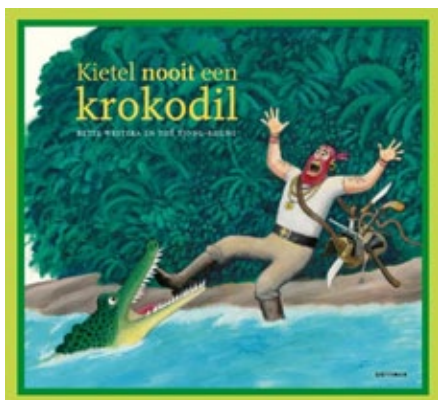
A warm story about a breath-taking bike ride. – *NRC Handelsblad*

A delightfully detailed picture book with a story that begins with an argument but all ends well. – *Jaap leest*

Bette Westera &
Thé Tjong-Khing

Never Tickle a Crocodile

When Wrinklebeard the Robber Chief dies, his daughter takes over the family business



Robber Chief Wrinklebeard has two cheeky sons and a very obedient daughter. On his deathbed he gives his children the following advice: do what you want, steal anything from anyone, but never tickle a crocodile. Only his obedient daughter does as she's told.

The boys laze around, merely wave as the queen goes by in her coach, pay for their bread like everyone else, and then go off in search of a crocodile. But when they finally find one, it almost proves the death of them. Fortunately their sister arrives just in time to rescue them and turn them into good, obedient robbers.

Thé Tjong-Khing's illustrations for this book are remarkable. In spite of the many witty details, the landscapes are spectacularly desolate: these robbers clearly live far from civilisation. Bette Westera has written a story in poems, with a quirky, back-to-front moral message, which could just as easily have been written by Annie M.G. Schmidt or Roald Dahl.

The collaboration between **Bette Westera** (b. 1958) and **Thé Tjong-Khing** (b. 1933) is still fresh, but has already proved fruitful. Their first project together, *Hero in Socks* (2013), won a Zilveren Griffel and an honourable mention for the Woutertje Pieterse Prize.

Author Bette Westera

Illustrator Thé Tjong-Khing

Age 6+

Pages 32

Publisher Gottmer

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Bette Westera's text, with its original rhymes, is particularly witty. Illustrator Thé Tjong-Khing beautifully captures the characters' expressions. – *De Standaard*

Never Tickle a Crocodile is beautifully cheeky. And funny. Children will lap up all that naughtiness. Both the words and the illustrations are flawless. – *Cobra.be*

Bette Westera & Sylvia Weve

Dead Simple

An exciting variety of words and pictures in a beautifully designed poetry collection that reminds us just how “dead normal” death is

Unique, unorthodox and unflinching: this describes children's writer Bette Westera and illustrator Sylvia Weve's approach to death in all its aspects. These poems, rhymes and songs range from poignant to light-hearted in tone and invite the reader to recite them out loud. Weve's outstanding, evocative illustrations are marked by their diversity of style, composition and atmosphere, beautifully complementing the poems and completing the collection.

The notion behind *Dead Simple* is that the only certainty in our lives is death – and that we'd better get used to that idea. Writing about such a theme without resorting to clichés or pretension is no easy task, but Westera does a magnificent job.

No matter what subject she explores – the existence of heaven, suicide, inheritance, mourning rituals in other cultures, epitaphs, funeral cards – every poem is a sublime combination of form, content and tone.

The watery grave of “little Klaas, barely thirteen years old” sounds like a ballad, while the anaphoric repetition of “Never again” in “Never again is forever” has the force of a cry from the heart, and the mesmerising rhythm of “Sky Burial” suggests a mantra.

Dead Simple is not a heavy or depressing book though, owing its lightness to Westera's wicked sense of humour, as she proves herself a kindred spirit of Annie M.G. Schmidt.

Illustrator Weve, too, calls on all kinds of registers, making inventive use of the varying page widths within the book. Cartoonish pictures – such as the family portrait with the skulls of distant ancestors in the foreground – alternate with more abstract images. Where the subject is too vast to be neatly depicted, such as the elusive nature of time, she paints rounded shapes and rough brushstrokes in earthy colours to suggest the circle of life. *Dead Simple* – this wonderful collection of poetry and illustrations is anything but.

Award-winning illustrator **Sylvia Weve** (b. 1954), a graphic designer by training, and **Bette Westera** (b. 1958), the epitome of a crafts-woman, have previously demonstrated that writer and illustrator can be each other's muse, having encouraged each other to new artistic heights in *I'll Teach You Songs of Longing and How to Swing By Your Monkey Tail* (2010), a collection of rhyming animal stories, and *Scram, I'm Not Your Gran* (2013), which won the Gouden Penseel and a Vlag en Wimpel. With *Dead Simple*, the duo have surpassed themselves, assisted by the exemplary design skills of Bocking Ontwerpers.

Author

Bette Westera

Illustrator

Sylvia Weve

Design

Bocking Ontwerpers

Age 8+

Pages 112

Publisher

Gottmer

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Dead Simple is a book that will win prizes, a book you need to have.
– *Het Parool*

This book's magnificent design also makes it a winner: the cloth spine, three ribbon markers, pages that vary in width, and an elegant lay-out.
– *Trouw*

Mariken Jongman

All Animals Living and Free

An amusing contemporary adventure featuring two young animal activists and bursting with linguistic delights

When 11-year-old Gijs discovers that his tough classmate Dietie has lured him into a secret animal liberation organisation, he feels that his life finally has meaning. If someone reads his diary in a hundred years' time, they'll surely think, "Stuttering stars and stoats, what an amaaaazing life!"

Mariken Jongman writes with great verve, freshness and wit. We already knew that from her stimulating adolescent novels like *De opmerkelijke observaties van Rits* (published in English as *Rits*) and *Kiek* (*Kiki*), but this book is simply fizzing and bubbling with the delight that Jongman takes in language. "He went racing, rushing and whooshing down the road," she says as Gijs tears through the village on a moped at night. His excitement jumps off the page. Dietie's gran's house is full of the "lip-licking, mouth-drooling aroma" of freshly baked cookies and Dietie looks at Gijs "ice-cubically".

The rebellious Dietie is a passionate animal rights activist: "Murdered animals, chopped into pieces. They call it meat." What she'd really like to do is liberate every

animal in captivity. That message is clear, but Jongman ensures that the book doesn't become overly dogmatic by telling the story from Gijs's point of view. Gijs has never thought too seriously about animal welfare. He loves animals, but he doesn't instantly become a vegetarian and he also has his doubts about the effectiveness of Dietie's plans. When it looks like Dietie's about to go too far, Gijs comes up with a new idea to raise awareness of animal cruelty.

And yet activism does not form the core of the book. It's actually more about friendship, trust and betrayal. And about a boy who's on the cusp of puberty. Being considered "suitable" to take part in secret nocturnal activities matters more to Gijs than the actual cause itself. It makes him feel, for the first time, that he has a life of his own, independent of adults. The way Gijs suddenly starts calling his parents by their first names and referring to them as "those people" is beautifully observed: "Weird... 'those people'. Gijs had never thought that way about his mum and dad before. Because they weren't people, they were parents."

Mariken Jongman (b. 1965) writes for a range of age groups, including picture books for toddlers, such as *Big Little Whale* (publ. Marmer) and *Sock Tea and Chocolate* for children of seven and up, but she is best known for her adolescent novels, such as *Rits*, *Kiki* and *Love, Love and Love Again*, all published by Lemniscaat. She also writes plays and songs. A number of her books have been translated into German, Korean, Chinese and English.

Author

Mariken Jongman

Age 10+

Pages 236

Publisher

Lemniscaat

Contact

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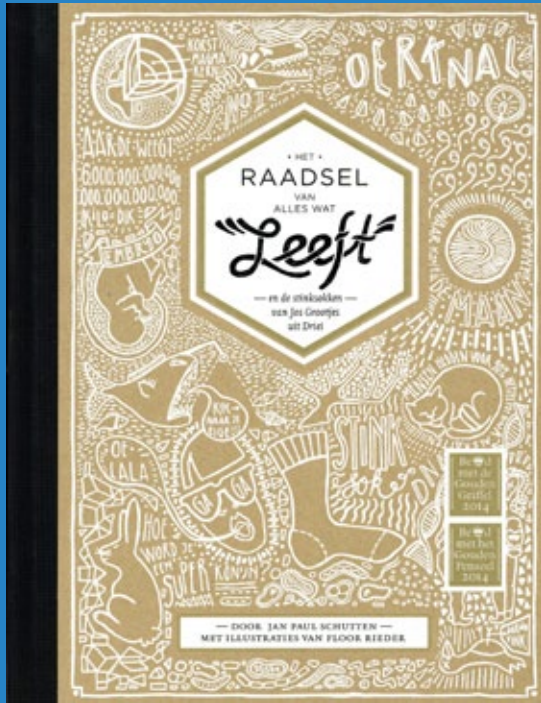


Mariken Jongman is the funniest children's author now writing in the Netherlands. She writes with a bold sassiness [...] and pulls off daredevil linguistic feats.
– *NRC Handelsblad*

A story with humour, strong characters, relevant questions and a whole load of oatmeal cookies.
– *Kidsweek*

The Netherlands' major awards for children's books

Golden Slate Pencil 2014 & Golden Paint Brush 2014



Het raadsel van alles wat leeft by Jan Paul Schutten and Floor Rieder (Gottmer)

Silver Paint Brush 2014



Coco of het kleine zwarte jurkje by Annemarie van Haeringen (Leopold/ Gemeentemuseum Den Haag)

Golden Frame 2014



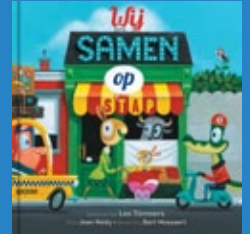
Tijgereiland by Daan Remmerts de Vries (Querido)

Silver Slate Pencil 2014

Up to 6 years:



Held op sokken by Bette Westera (Gottmer)



Wij samen op stap by Jean Reidy and Leo Timmers, translated by Bart Moeyaert (Querido)

From 6 years up:



Garmanns straat by Stian Hole, translated by Femke Blekkingh-Muller (Hoogland & Van Klaveren)



Groter dan een droom by Jef Aerts (Querido)

From 9 years up:



Broergeheim by Emiel de Wild (Leopold)



Vissen smelten niet by Jef Aerts (Querido)

Poetry



Ik zoek een woord by Hans & Monique Hagen (Querido)



Kleine stemmen by Gil van der Heyden (Clavis)

Dirk Weber

The Magician, The Goat and I

Camiel would do anything to get his dad out of prison, but he has to make sure he doesn't end up there himself

Camiel and Joris Roossen's father is a magician. Or that's what he claims. It's certainly true that he's always away from home. Once every couple of weeks he sends them a funny letter about his adventures, which Camiel reads out to his brother.

There's the story about the ventriloquist Julio, for instance, who's so bad that he nearly gets beaten up by an angry audience demanding a refund. The magician gives him some cash so at least he can buy something to eat. Joris swallows the stories, but Camiel has known for a long time what the real situation is.

Camiel's father is suspected of fraud, and so Camiel and his little brother have to go and stay with their strict grandparents. It's 1927 and an economic depression is in full swing. Grandpa is a cobbler and the

family is not well off. Camiel really wants to become a magician, just like his father, but he'll need proper training, and education costs money.

So Camiel has to get his father out of prison and he knows they're going to need a lawyer. He takes care of a goat with a wooden leg and tries to sell her milk, but soon realises he won't make enough money that way. So then he starts altering the bills for his grandfather's customers, so he can pocket the difference himself. And when he's asked to be a scout for a band of smugglers, he seizes his opportunity...

The Magician, the Goat and I is an old-fashioned book for boys, about a young man trying to get by as best he can. An exciting story, still relevant today, plays out against a backdrop of economic crisis. It ends, of course, with a magic show.

Dirk Weber (b. 1965) is a designer and copywriter by profession and writes literature in his spare time. He tries something different every time, so his small body of work is exciting and unpredictable. His debut *Choose Me!* (2005, Vlag en Wimpel winner) and the later *Dove Liquorice* (2008, Zilveren Griffel winner) are playful and literary in tone, while *Him or Me* (2010) is a chilling thriller for teens. *The Magician, the Goat and I* (2014) won the Thea Beckman Prize for historical books for young readers.

Author

Dirk Weber

Age 10+

Pages 152

Publisher

Querido

Contact

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A beautiful, atmospheric village adventure [...] which, just like Weber's previous books, is written in a precise, understated style and crisp, clear sentences.

– *Trouw*

A lovely story about the countryside, starring a smart boy, a goat with a broken leg and a father who's a magician and a smuggler.

– *Kidsweek*

Annet Huizing

How I Accidentally Wrote a Book

A sparkling debut about the grieving process and a writing course – all in one!

When 13-year-old Katinka tells people that her mum's been dead for ten years, they get tears in their eyes, or put their arms around her. "What I don't get is that other people don't get that I'm completely used to it," she says. But is that really true?

When her dad meets a new girlfriend, Dirkje, it turns out that Katinka has hidden her grief away inside. Even though she doesn't notice it herself, it comes bubbling up in the stories she writes for her neighbour Lidwien, a famous novelist who's suffering from writer's block and is now giving writing lessons to Katinka.

Huizing has created not only a powerful children's book about overcoming grief, but also an inspiring course in how to write. In every chapter, a section printed in blue features the writing tips that Lidwien gives Katinka. She teaches her about rules such as "show, don't tell" and "kill your darlings", about incorporating your senses in your writing and about all the little

details that make a story believable. These writing lessons show readers the possibilities of language, while revealing to Katinka the changes at home and in herself.

Suddenly Katinka starts to see her dad and Dirkje as characters in a book, subtly describing their behaviour and appearance. All the indications are that Dirkje is nice and kind. "She's soft. You can kind of sink into her." And, "She's always touching you (...) perhaps it's because she's a physiotherapist and she spends all day pummeling people."

But when a waiter thinks Dirkje is Katinka's mother, something snaps and she yells, "She's not my mum!" Lidwien then gives her a writing exercise that involves trying to get inside Dirkje's head.

The tone is down to earth, often amusing, and poignant at the right moments. The part where Katinka sees her mother in an old video recording is really heart-breaking. "Touching your reader's heart isn't some kind of trick," says Lidwien. And she's right.

Annet Huizing (b. 1960) works as a writing coach and writes non-fiction and educational books for children. She also reviews children's non-fiction for NBD/Biblion, the Dutch library organisation. *How I Accidentally Wrote a Book* is her first book and was quickly sold by auction to Germany.

Author

Annet Huizing

Age 11+

Pages 129

Publisher

Lemniscaat

Contact

Elaine Michon

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Rights sold

German (Mixtvision)



The educational sections could easily have got in the way of the real story, but Huizing succeeds in combining everything in meaningfully.

– *Trouw*

A story that's both appealing and amusing.

– *Kidsweek*

Sjoerd Kuyper

The Big L Hotel

Kos lives with his father and three sisters in a romantic, but almost bankrupt hotel by the sea

It's the kind of day "for writing your name across the moon with a spray can". Kos scores an impossible goal in front of a talent scout for the Ajax football team – and in front of Isabel, the most beautiful girl in the world. His dad is so overjoyed that he has a heart attack. From that point on, Kos seems to be the only one using his common sense – or at least trying to...

Things haven't been going well at the hotel since Kos's mum died, but without his dad there, it becomes impossible. How can you run a hotel and still keep on going to school? How can you pay off a big loan when you have hardly any paying guests? Even the name of the hotel isn't finished: they only got as far as the letter L.

And then there are his peculiar sisters. The youngest is in love with a seal, the

eldest has fallen for the depressed village poet, and the middle one is keen on the captain of the Tuvaluan youth football team, who are staying at the hotel during a competition. When the hotel's financial problems still aren't solved, there's only one option: winning the local beauty contest. And who's going to take part? Exactly: Kos. Disguised as a girl, he ends up in the final with his beloved Isabel.

However comical these events may appear, ultimately the book is all about honesty, loving one another and daring to be yourself. It's just as well that Kos pours his heart out to the microphone of an old tape recorder every evening – and that Isabel listens to the recordings and writes them down. Because that means everything turns out well in the end, and that we can enjoy it all in the form of this irresistible book.

Sjoerd Kuyper (b. 1952) started out as a poet for adults, but is best known for his extensive oeuvre of more than fifty children's books, for which he won the highest Dutch award: the Theo Thijssen Prize (2012). Highlights include *The Pocket Knife* (1981/1991), *The Red Swan* (1996) and *Robin and God* (1995, Gouden Griffel winner). He also writes lyrics for musicals and scripts for films, such as *My Grandpa the Bank Robber* (2011). Last year, he surprised his readers with what could be the best book of his entire oeuvre: *The Big L Hotel*.

Author

Sjoerd Kuyper

Age 11+

Pages 228

Publisher

Lemniscaat

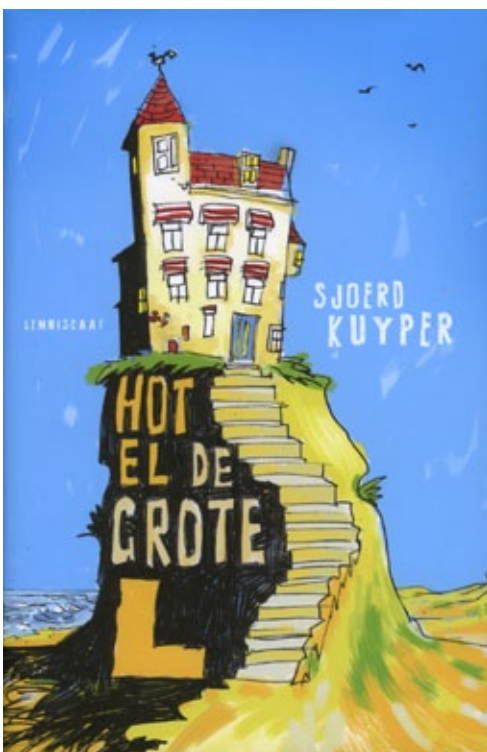
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Rights sold

English (Lemniscaat USA), German (Thienemann-Gabriel), Korean (Saenggakui Jip)



A riotous rollercoaster about adversity, love and happiness.
– *Het Parool*

A wonderfully wacky, high-spirited adolescent novel about Kos, who tries to run a hotel without his parents and falls in love.
– *Trouw*

Anna Woltz

A Hundred Hours of Night

A thrilling young-adult novel about Hurricane Sandy in New York and about a group of young people who overcome their fears

Tension and psychology are perfectly balanced in this cinematic young-adult novel. Emilia, a 14-year-old Dutch girl, flies to New York all on her own when it comes out that her father, who also happens to be her school headmaster, has been sending inappropriate text messages to a 17-year-old female student.

Emilia is disgusted – not only with him, but also with the vicious Twitterers who are threatening her family online, which lends the book a dramatic, contemporary impact.

When Emilia arrives in New York, which Woltz describes so evocatively, she discovers that the apartment she booked online doesn't actually exist. It turns out that teenager Seth and his precocious nine-year-old sister Abby – who seems to have stepped straight out of a book by Jenny Valentine – live at that address with their mother, who is out of town. They take pity on Emilia and allow her to stay the night, along with handsome high-school dropout Jim.

The sleepover doesn't turn out quite as expected, though, as Hurricane Sandy hits

New York. Author Anna Woltz experienced the storm herself and conjures it up in chilling images: rain lashes horizontally against the windows “as if we're driving through the carwash (...) Sandy tugs at the walls and pounds on the windows (...) How can that light be swaying to and fro? Suddenly I understand. It's not the light that's moving. It's the house.”

There's a lot happening in this book, but Woltz skilfully ties everything together. The hurricane and the subsequent days of power failure bring about changes for all her characters. Seth is struggling to cope with his father's death, Jim with his future, and Emilia with her serious phobia of dirt, her loneliness and her mixed feelings about her father.

The power blackout puts these young people beyond the reach of Twitter and parents, forcing them to rely on one another. They find out what it really means to connect and to feel united. “Friends? That's those little square pictures on Facebook, isn't it?” Jim wisecracks, but in the aftermath of Sandy, they form a friendship that goes much deeper.

Anna Woltz (b. 1981) writes successfully in various genres and for a range of readers, from a great animal adventure for eight-year-olds like *Save My Dog!* to a challenging young-adult novel such as *Black Box. I Still Can't Fly*, her historical novel for children, won the Thea Beckman Prize, while her award-winning *My Particularly Peculiar Week with Tess* was described by one newspaper as “universally beautiful writing for children”. Woltz's books have been translated into German, Danish, Norwegian, Slovene, Hungarian, Japanese, French and English.

Author

Anna Woltz

Age 14+

Pages 216

Publisher

Querido

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Rights sold

English (Arthur Levine, Scholastic USA), German (Carlsen), Hungarian (Pagony)



Emilia's narrative voice is authentic and lively, and her cynical observations about appearance and reality hit the mark. An honest coming-of-age adventure.

– *NRC Handelsblad*

A book that doesn't pull you away from reality, but directly confronts you with it and makes you see things in a fascinating, new way.

– *de Volkskrant*

Gideon Samson

Washed Away

A gripping YA novel, based on the true story of a survivor of the 2004 Asian tsunami

11 July, 2010. Pieter (23) is watching the World Cup final between the Netherlands and Spain when he receives a friendship request on Facebook from Elin, a Swedish girl. This catapults him five and half years back into the past to a period of voluntary work in Sri Lanka, when he spent the best Christmas Eve of his life with Elin, on the beach, in the waves. The next morning, that same sea engulfed coastal areas across Asia.

Gideon Samson has written a compelling young-adult novel based on the experiences of Julius 't Hart, a young Dutchman who lived through the tsunami of over ten years ago. What makes this book so great is that it not only presents a gripping account of the disaster, but also a sensitive and believable portrait of a student who is determined to forget, but ultimately can't run away from what happened.

After his school exams, Pieter sees his future as predictable, like a "neatly dug-out canal" (there are plenty of water metaphors in the book). So he decides to go in

search of adventure. In Sri Lanka he falls in love for the first time, with Elin. Samson presents this relationship through scintillating descriptions: Pieter had always thought kissing was "like brushing your teeth and sex was like painting a wall", but being in love with Elin "is like winning the lottery without even knowing you were taking part."

The contrast with the catastrophe that follows couldn't be more dramatic. Samson doesn't go for big emotions, though, but instead subtly shows how the disaster slowly takes hold of Pieter. As the water comes bursting into his hotel room, his first thought is, "What the...?! All my stuff's getting wet!" It's not until much later that the gravity of the situation dawns on him, when he discovers that Elin's friend is missing and he sees a child's body in the mud at the side of the road. These are impressions that he hides away deep inside when he returns home to Amsterdam, but they come bursting back to the surface when Elin gets in touch.

Gideon Samson (b. 1985) is one of the most talented young writers in the Netherlands. He has already won two Zilveren Griffel awards, for *Sick* and *Black Swan*, both published by Leopold, and has received honourable mentions for other awards. Under the pseudonym of Menno Fernandes, he has written a book for adults, *The Ref* (Podium), a collection of columns about his experiences as an amateur football referee. His books have been translated into German and Danish.

Author

Gideon Samson

Age 14+

Pages 176

Publisher Querido

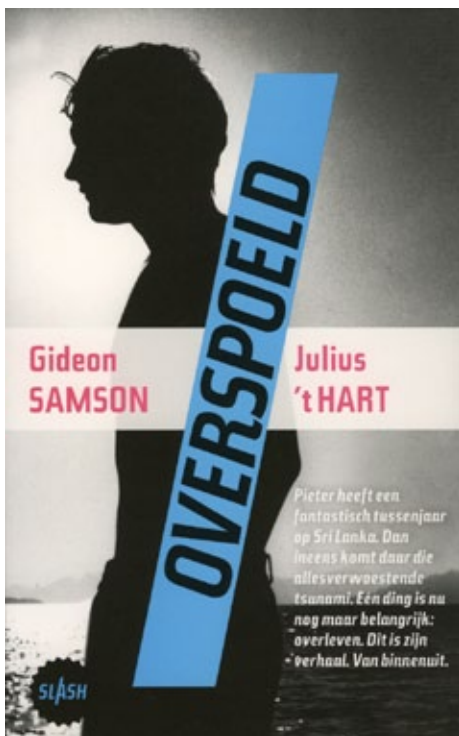
Contact

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Rights sold

German (Gerstenberg)



With its clarity, honesty and authentic narrative voice, this book is a real Samson.

– *Het Parool*

I was instantly captivated by Pieter's story and found it impossible to put the book down.

– *Friesch Dagblad*

Marco Kunst

Kroonsz

A magical novel full of ideas and thrilling adventures beyond time and space, culminating in a poetic ode to life and to love

It's one of the oldest themes in literature: how to relate to death and to our own mortality. Writing another meaningful, let alone original, book on the subject is no easy task. However, Marco Kunst's latest young-adult novel proves that it most certainly can be done.

The driving force behind this story is the eternal struggle between head and heart, religion and science, and the question, still relevant today, of how much good it does us to wish to control our lives and our time. The protagonists are the respected doctor Zacharias Kroonsz, who is obsessed with death, and his 17-year-old son, Wessel. We find ourselves in Amsterdam, on the eve of the Enlightenment, an age when there was significant tension between the desire for knowledge and the traditional conception of God, when philosophers such as Descartes and Spinoza wrestled with the incomprehensible nature of time, the inevitability of death and the question of what comes after that.

Kunst writes vividly, presenting a convincing portrait of the era and effortlessly transporting the reader to

17th-century Amsterdam, when the nearby presence of the sea could still be felt and the city was expanding so rapidly that it was straining at the seams.

The book takes a distinctly sinister turn when, grief-stricken after his wife's death, Kroonsz uses lenses to build a "chronoscope" that shows time as "a lattice of lifelines", predicting the date of everyone's death, including his own. Driven by his fear of death, Kroonsz manipulates time. He creates a hole in the fabric of reality – an ingenious notion – and transforms into something like Frankenstein's monster.

Of course, that hole, "the Rip", has to be closed. To do so, Kunst cleverly weaves together the storylines of Kroonsz and Wessel with those of Pink and Bor, two authentic young 21st-century characters, who bring a breath of fresh air to the story. Operating on the principle that "time is merely a tool of the imagination", Kunst symbolically merges past and present in a dazzling, poetic final scene, singing the praises of the invisible coherence of the universe and the strength of love.

Marco Kunst (b. 1966), author and philosopher, has previously shown, with his imaginative young-adult novels *Wiped* (2004) and *Isa's Dream* (2008), that he does not shy away from telling great stories in the tradition of Dutch classics by the likes of Tonke Dragt and Paul Biegel. Kunst does not allow himself to be pinned down to one particular genre or style. He surprised his readers last year with *Fly!*, a beautifully written and touchingly true-to-life novel about a dreamy young boy. That book won a Vlag en Wimpel award, as did his fairy-tale-like *The Key Bearer* (2012).

Author

Marco Kunst

Age 15+

Pages 342

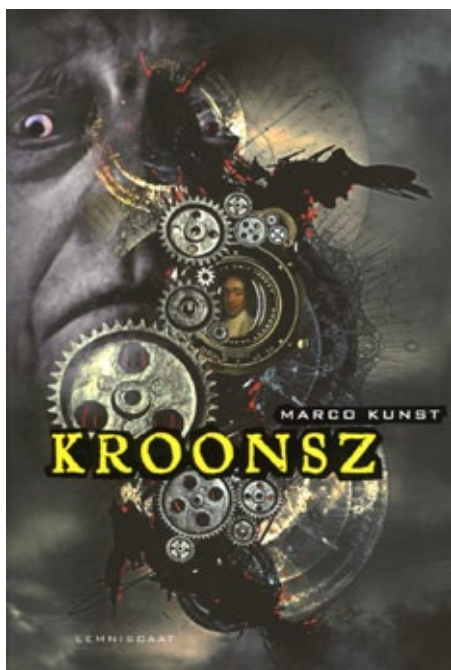
Publisher

Lemniscaat

Contact

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Kroonsz works: right from the beginning, Kunst opens wide the reader's senses and you can feel the passion with which this story was written.
– NRC Handelsblad

Marco Kunst gives everything he has in him as a writer: *Kroonsz* is a bold and ambitious book.
– Jaap leest

Recent Translations

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



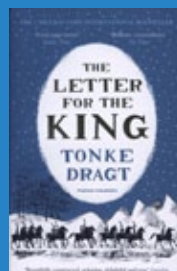
Joukje Akveld
German edition

Olli braucht keine Brille translated by Marianne Holberg for Urachhaus, 2014. Original title: Olle wist zeker dat hij geen bril nodig had, published by Van Goor, 2012.



Paul Biegel
Italian edition

Il piccolo capitano translated by Anna Patrucco Becchi for La nuova frontiera, 2014. Original title: De kleine kapitein, published by Holland, 1970.



Tonke Dragt
English edition

The Letter for the King translated by Laura Watkinson for Pushkin Children's Books, 2014. Original title: De brief voor de koning, published by Leopold, 1962. New winter edition.



Bibi Dumon Tak
English edition

Mikis and the Donkey translated by Laura Watkinson for Eerdmans, 2014. Original title: Mikis de ezeljongen, published by Querido, 2011.



Martha Heesen
German edition

Hunde muss man gar nicht mögen translated by Rolf Erdorf for Gerstenberg, 2014. Original title: Wolf, published by Querido, 2006.



Yvonne Jagtenberg
Hindi edition

[[Balotje finds a friend]] translated by Arundhati Deosthale for A & A Books, 2014. Original title: Balotje vindt een vriendje, published by Leopold, 2013.



Joke van Leeuwen
English edition

The Day my Father Became a Bush translated by Bill Nagelkerke for Gecko Press, 2014. Original title: Toen mijn vader een struik werd, published by Querido, 2010.



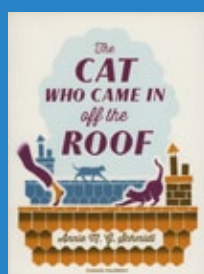
Ted van Lieshout
German edition

Sehr kleine Liebe translated by Rolf Erdorf for Susanna Rieder Verlag, 2014. Original title: Zeer kleine liefde, published by Leopold, 1999.



Gideon Samson
Danish edition

Sorte svane translated by Gudrun Gilhuis-Glenthøj and Lise Bøgh-Sørensen for Turbine, 2014. Original title: Zwarte zwaan, published by Leopold, 2012.



Annie M.G. Schmidt
English edition

The Cat Who Came in off the Roof translated by David Colmer for Pushkin Children's Books, 2014. Original title: Minoes, published by De Arbeiderspers, 1970.



Toon Tellegen
English edition

The Day No One Was Angry translated by Bill Nagelkerke for Gecko Press, 2014. Original title: Is er dan niemand boos?, published by Querido, 2002.



Edward van de Vendel
German edition

Der Winter mit Sam translated by Rolf Erdorf for Carlsen, 2014. Original title: De raadsels van Sam, published by Querido, 2012.

Alice Hoogstad
Monster Book

Annemarie van Haeringen
Snow White Knits a Monster

Daan Remmerts de Vries
Sometimes I Leave You Behind
for a Little While

Edward van de Vendel & Marije Tolman
See Ya!

Joukje Akveld & Philip Hopman
On Your Bike

Bette Westera & Thé Tjong-Khing
Never Tickle a Crocodile

Bette Westera & Sylvia Weve
Dead Simple

Mariken Jongman
All Animals Living and Free

Dirk Weber
The Magician, The Goat and I

Annet Huizing
How I Accidentally Wrote a Book

Sjoerd Kuyper
The Big L Hotel

Anna Woltz
A Hundred Hours of Night

Gideon Samson
Washed Away

Marco Kunst
Kroonsz

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