



Children's Books from Holland

Nederlands
letterenfonds
dutch foundation
for literature

Spring 2013

Jan Paul Schutten

Is That All?

An excess of exaggeration in a story that's packed with hilarity



Everything was better in the old days? No, absolutely not. Everything was so much worse back then! 'We were so poor that we had to drink our tea out of a rolled-up newspaper!' The famous Monty Python sketch 'Four Yorkshiremen' was what inspired Jan Paul Schutten to create the picture book *Is That All?* Together with illustrator Kees de Boer, he has elevated bragging to an art form.

Dirk's three (yes, three!) grandpas, Albert, Cuthbert and Hubert, think their grandson should be delighted with the rickety old bicycle they've given him. When they were young lads, they had to make do with so much less. A bike with punctured tyres. No, a bike with wooden wheels. No, that was nothing: one of the grandpas had a bike that was just one rusty, square, wooden wheel!

Schutten and De Boer elaborate upon this fabulous idea with infectious glee. Both the story and the lavish illustrations are delightfully and hilariously over the top, as is only fitting.

History is in good hands with **Jan Paul Schutten** (b. 1970). In his *Kinderen van Amsterdam* (Children of Amsterdam, 2007), which won the Golden Slate Pencil, he connected the city's past to the true stories of children from history. This approach allowed him to present information that is educational and fun, without lecturing his readers. Schutten's books – on subjects including not only history, but also plants and animals, food and people – are among the finest non-fiction books in the Netherlands. The two books presented here demonstrate his great talent for fiction – and for humour!

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Jan Paul Schutten
Illustrator
Kees de Boer
Age 4+
Pages 32
Publisher Gottmer
Contact
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Jan Paul Schutten has ably demonstrated that he can write picture books too. *JaapLeest.nl*

The Girl in the Golden Dress

The story behind the most famous Dutch painting of all – the ideal art education for children



Rembrandt's *Night Watch* is the number one attraction at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. But, when you take a good look at this painting, what do you actually see? Hidden among all the fine gentlemen, there is a girl. The story that Schutten tells about her takes young readers on an appealing journey to the world of Rembrandt and his best-known work.

'Is my collar right? Does my hair look good? Is my hat on straight?' The men of the shooting company are feeling a little anxious. Rembrandt is painting all of them, but who's going to be the star? Anyone who is familiar with the painting will know that one person ends up in the spotlight: the sweetest member of the company, the girl in the golden dress, who is at the heart of author Jan Paul Schutten's simple but very effective story.

Illustrator Van der Linden employs visual references to *The Night Watch* and other paintings in his dramatic presentation of the Amsterdam of the Golden Age. This book offers a perfect glimpse into history.

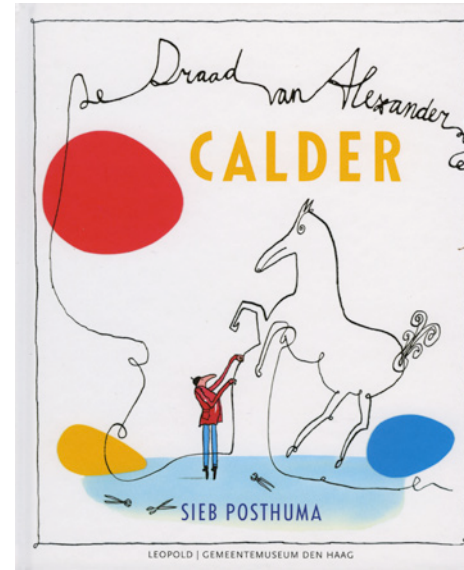
Author
Jan Paul Schutten
Illustrator
Martijn van der Linden
Age 4+
Pages 28
Publisher Rubinstein
Contact
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Schutten presents an appealing insight into life during the Golden Age and the creation of *The Night Watch*. *Trouw*

Jan Paul Schutten has written a very engaging and accessible story for young readers. *Kinderboekenpraatjes.nl*

Sieb Posthuma Alexander Calder's Wonderful Wire

A richly imaginative tribute to Alexander Calder



With his two Golden Paint Brush awards, Sieb Posthuma is one of the top illustrators in the Netherlands. His new picture book about Alexander Calder reveals a different side to this extremely versatile artist.

Alexander had a wire. He could use it to make anything he saw in his mind: an umbrella for unexpected showers or a bunch of wire-haired dogs. But how could he make something that would move all by itself? Inspired by the life and work of Alexander Calder (1898–1976), Posthuma has written and illustrated a book in praise of the imagination. With one swift movement, his pen captures the most amazing and wonderful figures, which he highlights using the bright colours of Calder's later mobiles.

Alexander Calder's Wonderful Wire is part of a series of picture books about art produced by Leopold and the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague. This successful series differs from other art books for children because of its fictional element, which gives authors and illustrators the opportunity to combine their own creative skills with those of the artist they admire.

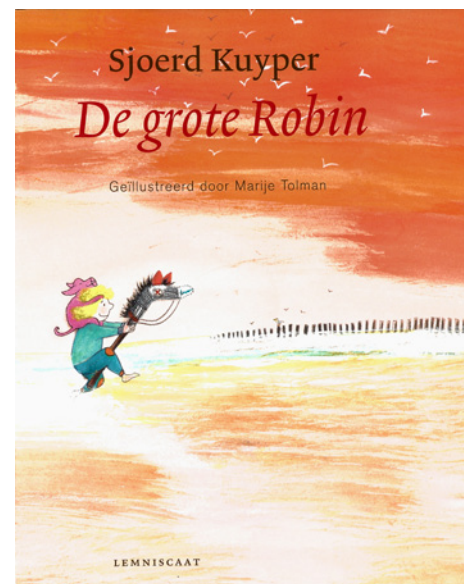
Sieb Posthuma (b. 1960) is an illustrator, theatrical designer and author. He began his career with illustrations for newspapers and magazines, and went on to create book covers and children's books. Posthuma also designed the set and costumes for a Dutch National Ballet production of *Coppelia*. In 2009, he won the Golden Paint Brush for *Boven in een groene linde zat een moddervette haan* (Up in a Green Lime Tree Sat a Big, Fat Rooster). In 2012, he won the same award once again for the illustrations he created to accompany Annie M.G. Schmidt's poems in *Een vijver vol inkt* (published in English as *A Pond Full of Ink*, with translations by David Colmer).

Author / Illustrator
Sieb Posthuma
Age 4+
Pages 32
Publisher Leopold
Contact
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Posthuma is just as playful with his writing pen as he is with his drawing materials and he comes up with witty names for his weird and wonderful creatures. *de Volkskrant*

Sjoerd Kuyper & Marije Tolman The Big Robin

Three award-winning Robin books in a wonderful collection for reading aloud



Last year, Sjoerd Kuyper won the Theo Thijssen Prize for his body of work as a children's author. His stories combine readability with literary skill and depth.

'Kuyper's stories are real and vivid, philosophical and warm, rhythmic and balanced, nostalgic and humorous – sometimes all at the same time,' said the jury for the Theo Thijssen Prize, reserving particular praise for Kuyper's read-aloud stories about Robin. The dreamy young boy from a village beside the Dutch dunes made his first appearance in children's literature in 1990 and has returned regularly ever since. *The Big Robin* combines Kuyper's three award-winning titles: *Robin en Suze* (Robin and Suze), *Robin en God* (Robin and God) and *Robin is verliefd* (Robin's in Love). These are big stories about small events. Kuyper deals with important issues directly and openly. The child, with his honesty, innocence and lack of inhibition, is the central figure in this author's work. Marije Tolman's charming illustrations conjure up a safe little world where the imagination triumphs.

Sjoerd Kuyper (b. 1952) has written dozens of children's books and won many awards, including the Golden Slate Pencil for *Robin and God*, and the Theo Thijssen Prize for his oeuvre in 2012. As well as children's books, he writes for television and theatre. Several of his books have also been made into films.

The picture books of **Marije Tolman** (b. 1976) have been published in more than ten countries. She won the 2010 Golden Paint Brush and the Bologna Ragazzi Award for *De boomhut* (published in English as *The Tree House*).

Author
Sjoerd Kuyper
Illustrator
Marije Tolman
Age 5+
Pages 192
Publisher Lemniscaat
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Kuyper writes as though he is painting. You have to read with your eyes half-closed, as a blinding golden gleam of hay and summer sun shines out at you from between the lines. *de Volkskrant*

Bette Westera & Sylvia Weve

Scram! I'm Not Your Gran!

A virtuoso interplay of words and images in a collection of poems about remarkable old people that will delight the eye and tickle the funny bone.

Children's author **Bette Westera** and illustrator **Sylvia Weve** have taken a unique and gently anarchic approach in these vibrant and powerful portraits of twelve old people, with their snappy rhymes and eloquent images. *Scram! I'm Not Your Gran!* demonstrates how craftsmanship and artistry can come together to produce an imaginative children's book that playfully combines ethics and aesthetics, emotion and humour.

How does a writer come up with an idea like that? A children's book in which the main characters are residents of an old people's home? And not only that, it's a poetry collection! This is perhaps not the most obvious of choices. Fortunately there are creative and independent spirits around, like Westera and Weve, who dare to be different. A children's bookshelf without the innovative and hilarious *Scram! I'm Not Your Gran!* would be incomplete.

The wit and elegance of these rhyming stories, which joyfully present life in all of its rich variety, bring to mind the work of Annie M.G. Schmidt and are a high point in Westera's writing career.

The link between the past and the

present is a particularly striking element of this book and lends an extra dimension to each of the poems. Behind each portrait of an old person, an ingenious system of fold-out pages conceals a portrait of their younger selves, so that you know 'Mrs Van Veen from room number one', 'Mr Van Bemmelen from room eight' ('who's as ugly as hate') and Mr Zeybek from Turkey were all young once and dreamed of love and romance, successful careers, or a large brood of children.

Illustrator Weve has also outdone herself in this book and was clearly motivated by a desire to experiment. The resulting illustrations reveal her background in graphic design. Using bold shapes and thirty different colours of ink, Weve has created artistic fold-out pictures that feature complete life stories in beautifully designed compositions and colour combinations. Humour is always present throughout this book too, as Weve employs her trademark over-the-top style.

In short, Westera and Weve, who have previously collaborated to great effect, inspiring each other to artistic heights, have delighted their readers once again with this magnificent, superbly designed book.

Bette Westera (b. 1958) is a versatile author of children's books who particularly enjoys writing for children of around six and seven. She has received a great deal of praise for her stories in poem form. Wacky feats of imagination and double-edged humour are typical elements of Westera's books, which she aims to make enjoyable for young readers and old.

Westera has found an outstanding partner in illustrator **Sylvia Weve** (b. 1954), who has illustrated over 100 books. Weve's expressive and energetic illustrations are the perfect match for Westera's writing. The poetry collection *Ik leer je liedjes van verlangen, en aan je apenstaartje hangen* (I'll Teach You Songs of Longing and How to Swing By Your Monkey Tail, 2010), which won a Silver Slate Pencil, is evidence of their successful partnership.

Author
Bette Westera
Illustrator
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Age 8+
Pages 60
Publisher
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The poems are all flawless [...] *Scram! I'm Not Your Gran!* is the most original children's poetry collection for years.
— *de Volkskrant*

A visual spectacle of colour and ingenuity.
— *Trouw*



Edward van de Vendel

Thirteen Running Deer

A subtle and sophisticated story about a sister and brother who resolve their differences with the help of fantasy animals.

There are plenty of children's books about imaginary friends, but this poetic tale is just a little bit different. The fantasy creatures that appear to Moonie and her brother Raf are like totem animals, symbolizing their characters. They help Moonie to become more self-confident and Raf to control his anger.

Moonie is staring at a vase one day when thirteen tiny blue deer come trotting out of it. They climb up her arms and their footsteps leave dents in her sleeve. And before they disappear into her hood, one of them whispers respectfully in Moonie's ear, 'Duchess.'

This mysterious beginning immediately intrigues the reader. The deer do not turn out to be friends in whom Moonie can confide and they don't come when she calls. They reflect her own character: jumpy, timid, sweet and fragile.

Moonie's explosive brother Raf is completely different. He has a 'short fuse' and often gets 'fired up'. And when that happens, he stamps and yells. Usually, Moonie doesn't complain and she just lets Raf get on with it, but the blue deer give her more confidence. 'She had risen higher.

She had become more important,' because of course she has a very special secret that shines within her, like an 'inner sun'.

Raf immediately understands what's going on, because an animal once appeared to him as well. After he confesses his secret to Moonie, she feels that the two of them have more in common than before, even though it seems to make Raf angrier than ever.

A subtle psychological shift takes place both within and between Moon and Raf, and Van de Vendel builds this up subtly and accessibly in his short, rhythmic sentences. 'Our Moon has grown,' says Mum. But when Dad takes out the tape measure, she's not even one centimetre taller. It is inside that she has grown.

The story culminates in a thrilling showdown between Raf's animal, a roaring lion, and Moon's deer. And it turns out that Raf is also looking for confirmation that he matters and that he's important too.

There are colour illustrations on every page by the young Flemish artist Mattias De Leeuw. The deer and the other animals are drawn fluidly, without any outlines, and their movements capture a range of emotions.

The award-winning oeuvre of **Edward van de Vendel** (b. 1964) consists of over fifty titles that are remarkable in their variety. Van de Vendel has written picture books such as *Kleinvader* (Little Father), non-fiction titles about the football team Ajax and bullying, young-adult novels like *De dagen van de bluegrassliefde* (The Days of Bluegrass Love) and *De gelukvinder* (The Boy Who Found Happiness), as well as poetry for young adults and for the very youngest readers, in his collections of *Superguppie* poems.

Author
Edward van de Vendel
Illustrator
Mattias De Leeuw
Age 8+
Pages 156
Publisher
De Eenhoorn
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A touching book that combines a fine exploration of child psychology with a lively imagination and an exciting story.
— *De Standaard*

A small masterpiece [...] that will enchant and captivate readers young and old.
— *Pluizer*



Hans Hagen

The Cockfight

Pio has been unable to go to school for some time because his father has lost his job, and so Pio hopes to win some quick money by training a rooster to fight.

Stories about people in impoverished circumstances are often very gripping. When life is hard, the decisions you make can really matter. If you have no money and something goes wrong, your situation can quickly go from bad to worse. Hans Hagen's *The Cockfight* is all about living in poverty and making the right decisions.

One day, when Pio is working near a waterfall, carrying a coolbox full of drinks for a group of tourists, he comes across a stray rooster. Pio would rather be at school than working, so he decides to use his spare time to train the bird to fight, with the aim of winning a prize at the cockfights. If he succeeds, he will be able to buy a new motorbike taxi, so that his dad can go back to work and Pio and his sister can return to school.

The world in which Pio is growing up is a pretty tough place. Cockfighting may be illegal throughout most of Europe, but where he lives it is a very popular sport. The birds that fight in the cockpits have a short and difficult life. Pio's bird has a deadly knife attached to its foot to slash its opponents with, and Pio's grandfather cuts

off the rooster's comb and wattle so they won't get in the way during the fighting. The losing birds end up in Cecil's cooking pot and are eaten when the day's fighting and betting are over.

Most of the losing birds are owned by poor people, because the richer breeders can afford to pay for special food and even performance-enhancing drugs. And it's usually the poor people who lose out on the betting as well. In fact, that's exactly how Pio's father, who already had little enough money to spare, managed to lose everything, including his old motorbike taxi and his job.

So there's a lot at stake. Hagen, who is a devoted animal lover, manages to keep the story objective and successfully presents Pio as a boy who loves his bird even though he knows how things are likely to turn out. Hagen skilfully uses precise, short, powerful sentences to polish the story to its poignant and thrilling essence.

This is a serious story, but not a dark one, and the surprising twist and unexpectedly happy ending – in which Pio's grandfather plays an important part – provide a fine conclusion.

Hans Hagen (b. 1955) is a master of many genres. Together with his wife Monique, he has achieved great success with volumes of poetry for children, such as *Jij bent de liefste* (You Are the Sweetest, 2000). His Jubelientje series for girls is very popular and he won a Golden Slate Pencil for *De dans van de drummers* (The Dance of the Drummers, 2003). Hans likes to go on long journeys and he incorporates his experiences into his stories about other cultures. He was inspired to write *Het Hanengevecht* (The Cockfight) during a visit to the Philippines.

Author

Hans Hagen

Illustrator

Philip Hopman

Age 8+

Pages 105

Publisher

Querido

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Hagen succeeds in presenting a vivid and objective picture of this world. He doesn't spare his readers any of the details, but he doesn't judge.
– *de Volkskrant*

He writes a kind of dancing prose that carries you along very naturally and rhythmically. [...] a feel-good book that you close with a smile on your face.
– www.jaappleest.nl



Simon van der Geest

Sputterfly

A boy's story, like *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, but much darker...

Hidde is no ordinary boy. What he likes best of all is spending time in his secret cellar with his centipedes, slugs, snails, earwigs, stick insects, praying mantis Jackie Chan and golden spear beetle Tessa. He's not that keen on people though, except perhaps for Lieke, who likes butterflies.

Hidde tries to win Lieke's affection by making a 'sputterfly' for her. He chops the wings off a butterfly and glues them onto a living spider to create a hybrid. Although it's a lot more inventive than what other boys do to insects, it doesn't make the impression he'd hoped for.

When Hidde's big brother Jeppe wants to take over the cellar so that he can practise with his band, Hidde has to go to even greater lengths to protect his space. He sets angry wasps on his brother and smears slug slime all over the stair rail. He hopes this will change Jeppe's mind, but

the situation escalates and becomes violent. Their mother works hard and isn't around much, so she has little idea about what her sons are getting up to.

Simon van der Geest succeeds in keeping the tone light in spite of the circumstances, which are at times rather bleak. The amusing cartoon-style illustrations by Karst-Janke Rogaar, all the lists and the smooth narrative style in the form of a boy's diary are reminiscent of Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

However, the story behind Hidde and his cellar is a darker and more tragic tale. Hidde, a romantic at heart, wins the reader's admiration when he finally manages to breed pink butterflies by feeding caterpillars on red-cabbage juice, but it comes too late for Lieke. She doesn't know what she's missing out on. Fortunately, everything works out for Hidde, his exhausted mother, his violent brother and their mysterious cellar...

Simon van der Geest (b. 1978) is a young author to watch. He made his debut with a book for teens, *Geel Gras* (Yellow Grass, 2009), and with a number of fun poems for boys, which came out at around the same time in a children's poetry anthology. He soon went on to win his first Golden Slate Pencil, for *Dissus* (2010), his vibrant adaptation of Homer's *Odyssey*. His third book for children, *Spinder* (Sputterfly, 2012), demonstrates that he can not only write beautiful sentences, but also craft a gripping and entertaining story.

Author

Simon van der Geest

Illustrator

Karst-Janke Rogaar

Age 10+

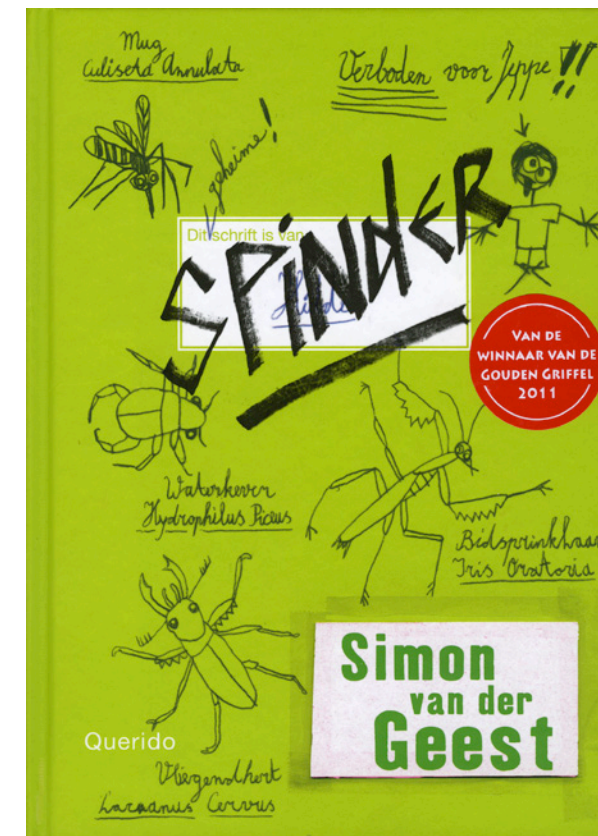
Pages 230

Publisher

Querido

Contact

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Sputterfly could very well become many children's favourite book.
– *NRCHandelsblad*

The story interlocks beautifully on many levels and the boys really come to life – and all of it is captured in the most delightful sentences.
– *Trouw*

Literary Prizes

The Netherlands’ major awards for children’s books

Golden Slate Pencil 2012



Winterdieren by Bibi Dumon Tak (Querido)

Silver Slate Pencils 2012
Up to 6 years:



Keepvogel en Kijkvogel by Wouter van Reek (Leopold)



O rode papaver, boem pats knal! by Sjoerd Kuiper (Lemniscaat)

Silver Slate Pencils 2012
From 6 years up:



Ik en de rovers by Siri Kolu, translated by Annemarie Raas (Gottmer, originally published by Otava, Finland)



Toen kwam Sam by Edward van de Vendel (Querido)

Silver Slate Pencils 2012
From 9 years up:



Mister Orange by Truus Matti (Leopold)



Vuurbom by Harm de Jonge (Van Goor)

Silver Slate Pencils 2012
Non Fiction:



Je beste vriendin Anne by Jacqueline van Maarsen (Querido)

Poetry:



Driedelig paard by Ted van Lieshout (Leopold)

Golden Paint Brush 2012



Een vijver vol inkt by Annie MG Schmidt and Sieb Posthuma (Querido)

Silver Paint Brush 2012



Het Muizenhuis by Karina Schaapman (Rubinstein)

Book Key 2012



Het Dierelirium by Javier Sáez Castán and Miguel Murugarren, translated and adapted by Kees van Kooten (De Harmonie, originally published by Fondo de Cultura Economica, Mexico)

Woutertje Pieterse Prize 2013



Kelderkind by Kristien Dieltiens (De Eenhoorn)

Gideon Samson

Black Swan

Literary ingenuity and thriller-like suspense in a story about a bad girl who plans her own funeral

Gideon Samson's *Black Swan* punctures the myth of the innocent child. He shows that children can be ruthless: they don't stop to think about how serious their actions are or about the consequences for other people. For manipulative Rifka, life is a game and she is the winner. Samson has written a haunting, stunning, taboo-breaking literary novel about a darkly fascinating character.

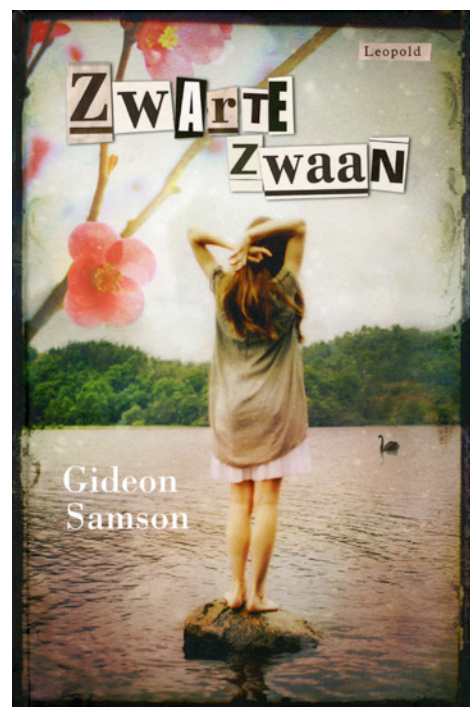
The central element in *Black Swan* is Rifka's ultimate act of manipulation: she wants to be present at her own funeral. She keeps imagining how wonderful it would be to see all those people mourning for her. So she plans to fake her own kidnapping and murder, so that her parents will organize a funeral for her, which she can then attend, incognito.

Such a daring subject could make this a rather daunting book for children, were it not for the fact that Samson has created a story that is very readable and as gripping as a thriller. He relates the events from different perspectives: the first part is told from the point of view of Duveke, Rifka's friend and reluctant accomplice, who

secretly decides to omit a crucial step in Rifka's plan. Then it's the turn of Duveke's unsuspecting brother Olivier, who provides his account of the days leading up to Rifka's funeral – because, yes, there is a funeral. This comes as a surprise. Wasn't Duveke going to foil Rifka's plan? And can a child be declared dead so soon after they've been reported missing?

In the final section, *Black Swan* takes on elements of a tragedy: pieces of the puzzle fall into place and it becomes clear that this story really did come down to a matter of life and death. We discover what happened after Rifka's disappearance, as seen from her point of view. Gradually, in spite of everything, the reader even begins to develop sympathy for the bad girl.

The plot is brilliantly worked out by Samson, who writes in a clipped, staccato and apparently simple style. But that simplicity is intentional: at the conclusion he neatly twists our expectations. This construction is awe-inspiring, but the cleverest thing about this story is the way Samson plays with our ideas about guilt and innocence. Who was really the victim and who was the villain?



With his fifth book, *Zwarte Zwaan* (Black Swan), **Gideon Samson** (b. 1985) has firmly established himself as one of the brightest new stars in Dutch children's literature. He was the youngest writer ever to win a Silver Slate Pencil, for *Ziek* (Sick, 2009). Critics have compared him to great Dutch children's writers such as Guus Kuijer and Veronica Hazelhoff, but Samson has also been praised as a writer "who is expected to make great advances in young people's literature".

Author
Gideon Samson
Age 10+
Pages 212
Publisher
Leopold
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With *Black Swan*, a dark story about a formidable bad girl, Samson has surpassed himself as a teller of quirky tales.
— *Het Parool*

Samson plays masterfully with the reader's expectations and even manages to spring a surprise on the final page.
— *Trouw*

Roland Colastica

Fireworks in My Head

A heart-warming story about the many colours of Curaçao and a friendship between two boys from different backgrounds

In his first children's book written in Dutch, Antillean writer and dramatist Roland Colastica makes it abundantly clear that Curaçao is more than an exotic paradise, using evocative language to sketch an island society where young and old are still burdened by the colonial past, and black and white are at times diametrically opposed.

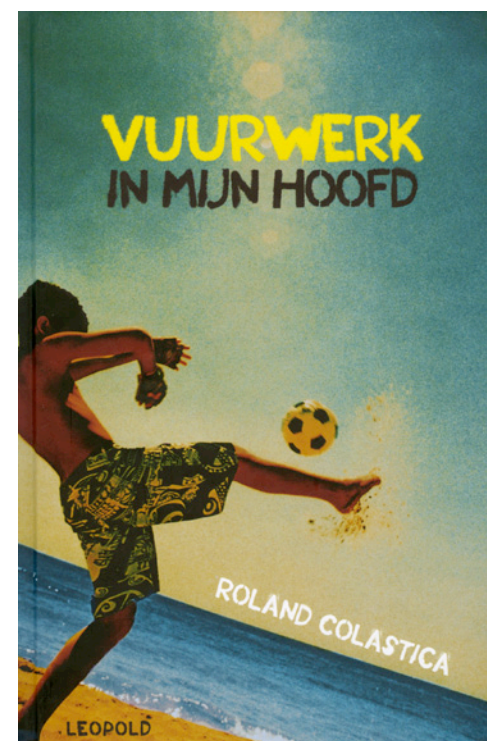
The unspoken friendship between Colastica's black protagonist, thirteen-year-old Jurcell, and the elusive Gerrit, a 'makamba' (white Dutch person), is symbolic of the tensions between the original population of Curaçao and the former Dutch occupier. The boys are classmates, play football together and both have difficult home lives. They get along pretty well, but their background and the colour of their skin makes it impossible for them to admit that. This becomes even more true when they get involved in an armed street war between rival youth gangs.

From the very first pages, this gang war produces action-packed scenes that make *Fireworks in My Head* a genuinely exciting

story. Colastica makes clever use of a number of historical stories to demonstrate how the pain of the people of Curaçao is a direct result of their past of slavery.

Jurcell clearly finds this past difficult to deal with. Colastica's depiction of a boy at the end of his tether is particularly strong, as Jurcell stands in front of the mirror and comes face to face with himself, before exploding with rage and smashing the mirror to pieces, following Bob Marley's maxim: 'Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery.'

Fortunately, Colastica preaches hope and his book is about more than the links between slavery and racism. The Antillean writes naturally and captures realistic, likeable characters on the page. He also succeeds in stimulating the reader's senses. You can feel the magic of this exotic island. You see and smell the lush colours and intoxicating scents of the beautiful blossoms. You hear the splash and roar of the crystal-clear sea: Curaçao is a multicoloured island in every respect. Colastica has captured its beauty and diversity in this magnificent children's book.



Roland Colastica (b. 1960) is a celebrated Antillean writer and dramatist who has devoted his life to storytelling. In 2006, he was awarded the prestigious Cola Debrot cultural award for his work

Fireworks in My Head is his debut as a children's writer and is one of the few contemporary children's books set in a former Dutch colony. Unlike celebrated author Miep Diekmann, who grew up in Curaçao and wrote a number of books about the Antilles in the 1960s and 70s, Colastica writes from a black perspective, which gives this story a fresh angle.

Author
Roland Colastica
Age 10+
Pages 140
Publisher
Leopold
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Fireworks in My Head is a charming book that provides an insight into contemporary society on the island of Curaçao in a way that is unique in children's literature.
— *Trouw*

Roland Colastica has written a book that brings to life Curaçao in all its many aspects [...] a book with a hopeful message, for which we have had to wait a long time.
— *NRC Handelsblad*

Marcel Roijaards Rebel with Wings

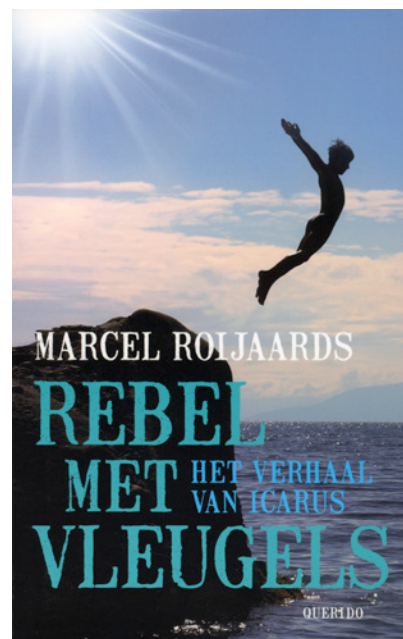
A dazzling debut novel about Icarus, one of the most fascinating figures in Greek mythology

Icarus plays only a modest role in Greek mythology. And yet his ill-fated flight to the sun, with wings made by his father, has appealed to the imagination for centuries. Marcel Roijaards became fascinated by the boy and portrays him as an enchanting dreamer in this evocative YA novel.

In an abandoned open-air theatre in Crete, six young actors recall memories of their dead friend Icarus, so that he will never be forgotten. 'We imagine you sitting there as our audience,' they tell the reader.

These eye witnesses are 'performing' Icarus's story after the events, so there is still room for epic imagination and embellishment. After all, on a stage, it does not seem so unusual to exaggerate the heroic exploits of your best friend or claim that he had special gifts, such as speaking the language of the birds.

The actors remain nameless; they are present only as a group, as a chorus singing the praises of Icarus. And yet you can feel their love for their friend and their sadness at the way his story ended. The book at times employs a clever and affectionate first-person-plural perspective, which emphasizes Icarus's individualism and his free spirit.



'I spin a wire with my heart and walk across it like a tightrope artist,' says Icarus, in the sparkling, evocative language that characterizes this book. He follows his feelings, does not reflect too much, is disarmingly cheeky and full of ideas. Icarus dreams of being able to fly – this theme is subtly repeated – and with all of his captivating tales he brings light to the lives of his friends and his father, the architect Daedalus.

Roijaards makes the original myth his own with his distinctive approach. In his version, Icarus is given a larger role than we ever knew about. Icarus falls in love with Ariadne, the daughter of the cruel King Minos, and plays a thrilling part in defeating the Minotaur. This monstrous man with a bull's head is locked away in the labyrinth designed by Daedalus, where he feeds on the children of Athens.

The best thing about *Rebel with Wings* is perhaps Icarus's infectious zest for life: it bursts off the pages. The touching relationship between Icarus and his father and the gently philosophical lessons about growing up, friendship, devotion and good and evil are added bonuses.

Marcel Roijaards (b. 1966) comes from a family of actors, but works behind the scenes himself, as a director, writer and teacher. He based his debut *Rebel met vleugels* (Rebel with Wings) on his youth-theatre play *Icarus*. Roijaards won a Gouden Kalf at the Nederlands Film Festival in 2012 for his screen-play for the short film *Sevilla*.

Author

Marcel Roijaards

Age 12+

Pages 223

Publisher

Querido

Contact

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Captivating and full of humour!
– *Sevendays*

A perfect YA novel [...] about an irrepressible lust for life that extends beyond the boundaries of death.
– *Het Parool*

Petra Boers & Suzanne Hertogs DUF 3: Get Wise!

An innovative visual spectacle designed to astonish and nimbly lead the reader through the illusory world of the media

How do you tempt young people to read? How can you draw them into the world of culture, history, science and media? How is it possible to surprise them nowadays with anything written on paper and how do you respond to their unstoppable urge to zap away? Give them *DUF*, the only truly independent 'magazine book' in the Netherlands, with its irresistibly quirky combination of images and information.

DUF comes out once every two years, is about 300 pages thick, packed with fascinating facts and fun items, and it looks like a book. But that's not what it is. The inventive design and dazzling variety of columns, articles, photos, illustrations and cartoons invite the reader to treat *DUF* as a magazine and to keep picking it up to take another look. This is what prompted creators Petra Boers and Suzanne Hertogs to dub their unique concept a 'magazine book' back in 2006.

The third edition of *DUF* has the theme of getting wise to media tricks and Boers and Hertogs recommend it as a 'must-have for every independent teenage thinker'. They are absolutely right. Striking the perfect tone for readers of this age group, with clever puns and colourful and appealing design, they present the modern

'screenager' with a convincing account of the crazy and manipulative ruses of the modern media, without ever turning it into a lecture.

From hilarious hypes, political propaganda, historical falsification, 'happiness buttons' that advertisers know how to press, six 'porn myths' (complete with 'media-free sex tips'), to the cunning art of Photoshop and the idea that there's 'no such thing as a free lunch', they cleverly unveil the world of illusions in which we live and remind the reader that 'a critical mind is a joy forever'.

Remember that slogan – because deceit is lurking even within the pages of *DUF* itself. One interview deliberately features product placement and the 'real-life' report about young people with 'Facebook depression' who ritually 'kill off' their virtual world turns out to be a hoax.

Yes, *DUF: Get Wise!* challenges the reader, with quizzes, puzzles, puns and poems. Featuring top-quality work from contributors ranging from famous Dutch author Arnon Grunberg to philosopher and writer Bas Haring and plenty of fascinating and talented newcomers, *DUF* has proven once again – in terms of both design and content – that it is the perfect medium for drawing in modern young people, wirelessly, on ordinary paper.

Petra Boers (b. 1968) makes creative magazines and books and works as a journalist with a focus on young people. Together with Suzanne Hertogs (b. 1977), graphic artist and owner of the design company Ontwerphaven, she came up with the unique concept for *DUF*. Boers and Hertogs have recently created a 'dancecyclopedia' for young dancers, and the magazine *GLAS* for the National Glass Museum.

DUF 1 and 2 have won multiple awards. **Suzanne Hertogs** has also won many prizes for her individual work, including the Red Dot Design Award, Dutch Design Prize and ED Award for the best European design.

Author

Petra Boers

Graphic Design & Illustration

Suzanne Hertogs

Age 12+

Pages 304

Publisher

Stiching Pica Pica

Contact

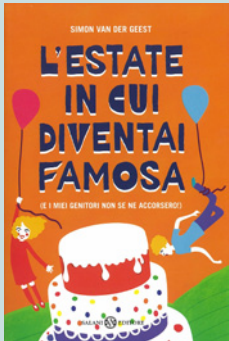
Suzanne Hertogs
info@duf.nl

DUF looks magnificent. The colours burst out from the matte paper, and every page is different.
– *NRC Next*

This is the internet reformatted for print. The chunky *DUF*, a creative cluster bomb, shows exactly how it should be done. Fabulous.
– *de Volkskrant*



Recent Translations



Simon van der Geest
Italian edition

L'estate in cui diventai famosa (e i miei genitori non se ne accorsero!) translated by Dafna Fiano for Salani, 2012. Original title: Geel gras, published by Querido, 2009.



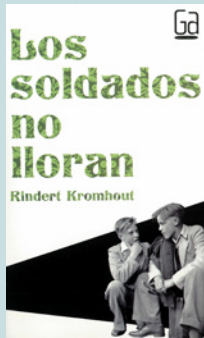
Marjolijn Hof
Turkish edition

Dedem ve Ben translated by Burak Sengir for Hayy kitap, 2012. Original title: Mijn opa en ik en het varken Oma, published by Querido, 2011.



Rindert Kromhout
Swedish edition

Lilla Åsnan och Svarta Fåret translated by Angelica Sundin for Berghs, 2012. Original title: Kleine Ezel en het zwarte schaapje, published by Leopold, 2012.



Rindert Kromhout
Spanish edition

Los soldados no lloran translated by Gonzalo Fernández for Ediciones SM, 2012. Original title: Soldaten huilen niet, published by Leopold, 2010.



Joke van Leeuwen
Slovenian edition

Ko je oče postal grm translated by Katjuša Ručigaj for Miš Zalozba, 2012. Original title: Toen mijn vader een struik werd, published by Querido, 2010.



Benny Lindelauf
German edition

Unsere goldene Zukunft translated by Bettina Bach for Bloomsbury, 2012. Original title: De hemel van Heivisj, published by Querido, 2010.



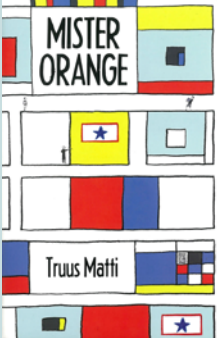
Yvonne Jagtenberg
Complex Chinese edition

Balotje op ballet published by Cotton Tree, 2012. Original title: Balotje op ballet, published by Leopold, 2010.



Guus Kuijer
Japanese edition

Itsumo itsumademo itsushiyomi! translated by Etsuko Nozaka for Fukuinkan Shoten, 2012. Original title: Voor altijd samen, amen, published by Querido, 1999.



Truus Matti
English edition

Mister Orange translated by Laura Watkinson for Enchanted Lion Books, 2012. Original title: Mister Orange, published by Leopold, 2011.

Recent Translations



Sieb Posthuma
Italian edition

Il Signor Paltò translated by Valentina Freschi for Gribaudò, 2012. Original title: Mannetje Jas, published by Querido, 2006.



Gideon Samson
Danish edition

Superstakkel translated by Birthe Lundsgaard for Turbine, 2012. Original title: Ziek, published by Leopold, 2009.



Jan Terlouw
German edition

Kriegswinter translated by Eva Schweikart for Urachhaus, 2012. Original title: Oorlogswinter, published by Lemniscaat, 1972.



Marcel Prins & Henk Steenhuis
German edition

Versteckt wie Anne Frank. Überlebensgeschichten jüdischer Kinder translated by Andrea Kluitmann for Ravensburger Buchverlag, 2013. Original title: Ondergedoken als Anne Frank, published by Querido, 2011.



Jowi Schmitz
German edition

Olivia - Manchmal kommt das Glück von ganz allein translated by Bettina Bach for Hanser, 2012. Original title: Ik heet Olivia en daar kan ik ook niks aan doen, published by Lemniscaat, 2011.



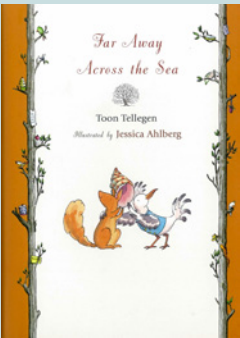
Edward van de Vendel
Norwegian edition

Duen som ikke kunne stupe translated by Bodil Engen for Cappelen Damm, 2012. Original title: De duif die niet kon duiken, published by De Eenhoorn, 2011.



Wouter van Reek
German edition

Krahinkel & Eckstein - Auf den Spuren von Piet Mondrian translated by Rolf Erdorf for Gerstenberg, 2012. Original title: Keepvogel en Kijkvogel, published by Leopold, 2011.



Toon Tellegen
English edition

Far away across the sea translated by Martin Cleaver for Boxer Books, 2012. Original title: Toen niemand iets te doen had, published by Querido, 1987.

For more information about translations, visit our website www.letterenfonds.nl

Jan Paul Schutten
Is That All?

Hans Hagen
The Cockfight

Jan Paul Schutten
The Girl in the Golden Dress

Simon van der Geest
Sputterfly

Sieb Posthuma
Alexander Calder's Wonderful Wire

Gideon Samson
Black Swan

Sjoerd Kuyper & Marije Tolman
The Big Robin

Roland Colastica
Fireworks in My Head

Bette Westera & Sylvia Weve
Scram! I'm Not Your Gran!

Marcel Roijaards
Rebel with Wings

Edward van de Vendel
Thirteen Running Deer

Petra Boers & Suzanne Hertogs
DUF 3: Get Wise!

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