

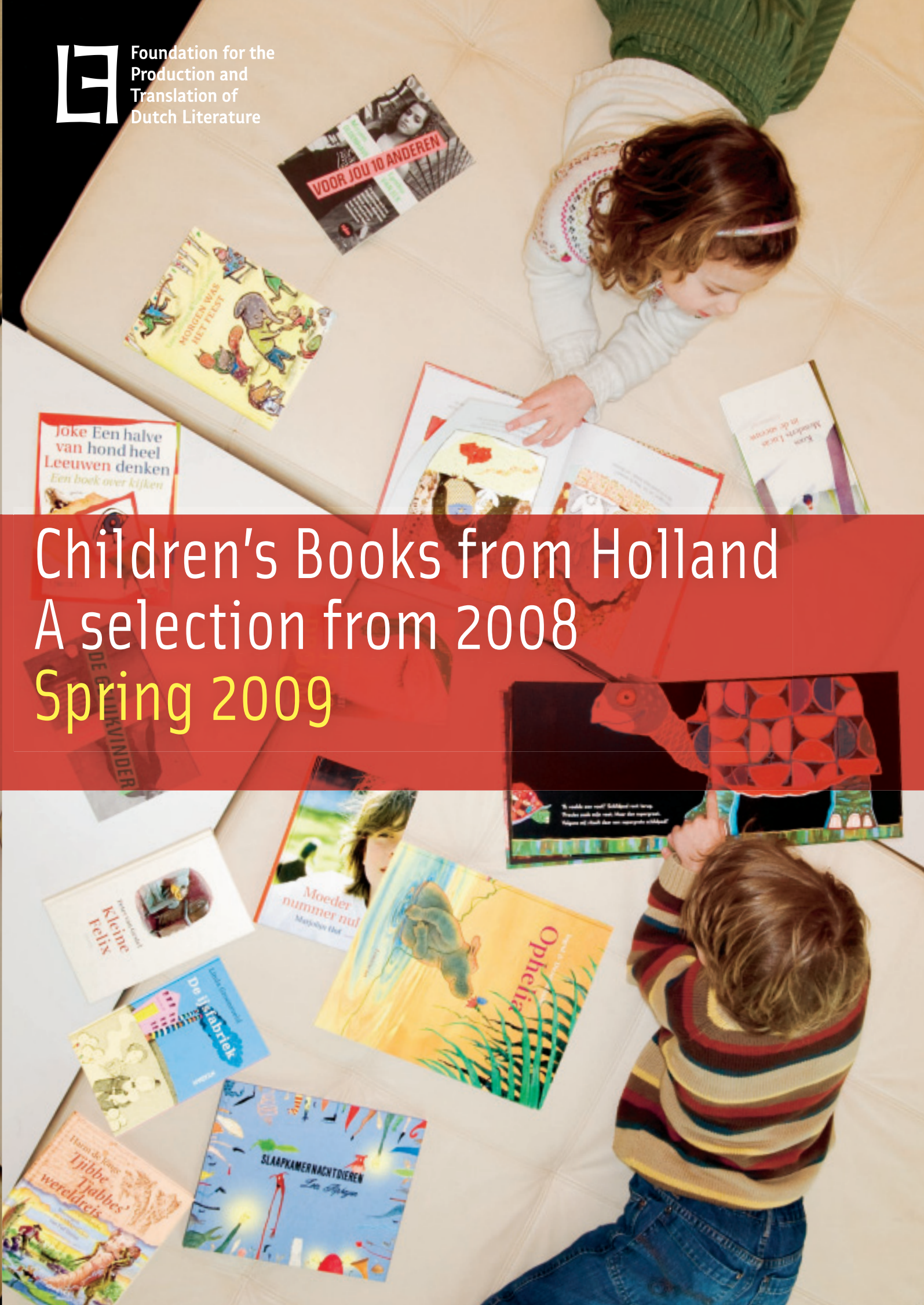


Foundation for the
Production and
Translation of
Dutch Literature

Children's Books from Holland

A selection from 2008

Spring 2009



- p. 1 **Literary prizes**
- p. 2 **Ophelia** Ingrid and Dieter Schubert
- p. 2 **I Can Feel a Foot!** Maranke Rinck, Martijn van der Linden
- p. 3 **Dream Rabbit** Daan Remmerts de Vries
- p. 3 **Bedroom Beasties** Loes Riphagen
- p. 4 **Tomorrow's Party** Toon Tellegen, Ingrid Godon
- p. 5 **The Ice-cream Factory** Linda Groeneveld
- p. 6 **Lucas in the Snow** Koos Meinderts, Annette Fienieg
- p. 7 **Tjibbe Tjabbes' Voyage around the World**
Harm de Jonge
- p. 8 **Little Felix** Peter van Gestel
- p. 9 **Mother Number Zero** Marjolijn Hof
- p. 10 **Thinking Half a Dog Whole: A Book about Looking**
Joke van Leeuwen
- p. 11 **The Boy Who Found Happiness**
Edward van de Vendel, Anoush Elman
- p. 12 **Ten a Penny** Mirjam Oldenhove and Cynthia van Eck
- p. 13 **Isa's Dream** Marco Kunst
- p. 14 **Recent Translations**
- p. 15 **The Foundation**

Literary prizes

The major awards for children's books by Dutch authors and illustrators are listed below, along with the recent winners.

De Griffels

(The Slate Pencils)

Since 1954

Annual awards for the best-written children's books published in the previous year.

Gouden Griffel 2008

(Golden Slate Pencil)

Kinderen van Amsterdam

Jan Paul Schutten

Nieuw Amsterdam

10+, non-fiction



De Penselen

(The Paintbrushes)

Since 1973

Annual awards for the best illustrations in children's books published in the previous year.

Gouden Penseel 2008

(Golden Paintbrush)

Sinterklaas

Charlotte Dematons

Lemniscaat

3+



Woutertje Pieterse Prijs

Since 1988

Annual award for books which excel in language, content, illustrations and layout.

2008

Het geheim van de keel van de nachtegaal

Peter Verhelst & Caril Cneut

De Eenhoorn

7+



Zoenen

(Kisses)

Since 1997

Annual awards for the best young-adult books (age 12 and up) published in the previous year.

Gouden zoen

(Golden Kiss 2008)

Slecht

Jan Simoen

Querido

16+



Gouden Uil Jeugdliteratuurprijs

(Golden Owl for Children's Books)

Since 1995

The Golden Owl is the annual Flemish (Belgian) award for the best children's book published in the previous year.

2008

Linus

Sabien Clement, Mieke Versyp en Pieter

Gaudesaboos

Lannoo

7+



Nominations for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis

(German Youth Literature Prize)

Since 1956

Annual German state prize for the best children's books published in the previous year.

2008

Big

Mireille Geus

Lemniscaat

10+



Negen Open Armen

Benny Lindelauf

Querido

12+



Ophelia

Author/illustrator

**Ingrid and
Dieter Schubert**

Age 3+

Pages 26

Publisher

Lemniscat

Vijverlaan 48

3062 HL Rotterdam

www.lemniscat.nl

Contact for rights

Diana Garibbo

diana@lemniscat.nl

A tubby little hippo is happily bobbing around on her back in an African pond. Her name is Ophelia and the illustration is a reference to the famous painting by John Everett Millais. But unlike the English painter's tranquil picture, in which Hamlet's heroine serenely floats along a river amongst luxuriant vegetation, Ingrid and Dieter Schubert's Ophelia is the very image of chubby cheerfulness. This resonance of images often occurs in *Ophelia*, the latest picture book from this husband-and-wife team of illustrators, who have been combining their forces for over thirty years, without ever revealing to the outside world who exactly does what. On this occasion they have set their story in jungle surroundings and based it loosely on the game of Chinese whispers, with the events becoming more and more dramatic as the story progresses. The whisper in this story involves Ophelia's friend, Joppe the crocodile. The harmless diagnosis of "butterflies in the stomach" gradually spins out of control until finally it becomes the gloomy news that Joppe is as dead as a dodo. Of course, this isn't true and this colourful story full of action-packed, naturalistic pictures has a happy ending. Children all over the world have loved Ingrid and Dieter Schubert's picture books for decades. In *Ophelia*, the Schuberts once again demonstrate the very best of their abilities.

'Craftsmanship simply radiates from the pages of the Schuberts' books and their accessible stories are all illustrated with affectionate, realistic watercolours.' *Trouw*

I Can Feel a Foot!

Author

Maranke Rinck

Illustrator

Martijn van der Linden

Age 3+

Pages 36

Publisher

Lemniscat

Vijverlaan 48

3062 HL Rotterdam

www.lemniscat.nl

Contact for rights

Diana Garibbo

diana@lemniscat.nl

Maranke Rinck and Martijn van der Linden's new picture book is based on a classic oriental legend. Tortoise, Bat, Octopus, Bird and Goat are sleeping in their hammock high above the ground. Suddenly they hear a sound – something is rustling in the pitch-black night. The animals go to investigate and each of them thinks they can feel something different, as they all see things from their own point of view. So they're very surprised when the mysterious rustling turns out to be not a terribly big tortoise or a gigantic goat, but just an elephant. Rinck tells the story in simple, rhythmic sentences in which every word counts. Van der Linden has designed each of his brightly coloured characters with a different pattern: Tortoise's shell looks like a Mediterranean mosaic and Bird seems to be made of different scraps of fabric. The cutout animals are stuck against a black background, which provides a fine backdrop for their nighttime adventure and throws the characters' exuberant splashes of colour into sharp relief.

Rinck and Van der Linden have previously worked together on *Het prinsenkind* (The Prince Child) and *Meisjes om te zoenen* (The Sweetest Kiss). The refreshingly different style of *Ik voel een voet!* (I Can Feel a Foot!) shows that they can turn their hands to a variety of styles.

This picture book is also published in a tactile edition for blind and partially sighted children, in which all the animals are made of real material.

***Ik voel een voet!* won the American Parent's Choice Award 2008 in the category Picture Books.**



Dream Rabbit

Author/illustrator
Daan Remmerts de Vries

Age 4+
Pages 26

Publisher
Querido
Singel 262
1016 AC Amsterdam
www.queridokind.nl
Contact for rights
Lucienne van der Leije
l.van.der.leije@querido.nl

Multi-talented, award-winning author and illustrator Daan Remmerts de Vries delighted his readers last year with this picture book about love and about dreams that come true. Owl falls asleep and has a dream about a white rabbit. The reader wonders whether Owl fancies leg of rabbit for his dinner, but this suspicion turns out to be wrong – Owl is, in fact, a very noble creature. When he wakes up, he's overjoyed to find out that the white rabbit really exists. He would very much like to have her all for himself, but Rabbit tells him that she doesn't belong to anyone. She is her own rabbit, thank you very much. "That's strange," says Owl. "I don't belong to anyone." "You're a dope," says Rabbit. "So no one wants to have you." But, in the end, the two of them decide that they'll have each other. As Rabbit realises, a warm pair of wings is not to be sniffed at, so maybe having Owl isn't such a bad idea after all. The final pages of the book show Owl and Rabbit's wedding feast and then a happy procession of children, who look a little owlsh and a bit rabbitly, all at the same time.

'A sophisticated interplay between story and illustrations. The exuberant collages depict the emotions that the matter-of-fact text barely shows.'
Trouw



Bedroom Beasties

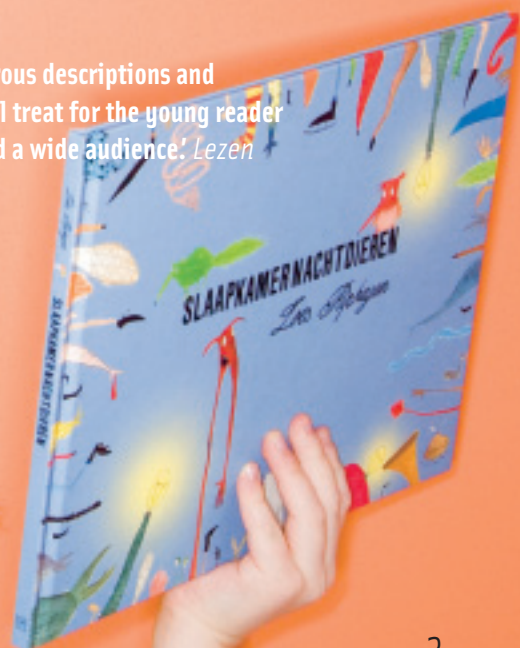
Author/illustrator
Loes Riphagen

Age 6+
Pages 32

Publisher
De Fontein
Postbus 1
3740 AA Baarn
www.defonteinbaarn.nl
Contact for rights
Joris van de Leur
jvdleur@defonteinbaarn.nl

Children are prepared to believe many things, as long as you present them in a convincing way. This must have been what Loes Riphagen was thinking when she created *Slaapkamernachtdieren* (Bedroom Beasties), her picture-book debut. In this amazing ABC of fabulous creatures, she introduces a whole range of new species, all of which are regular visitors to human bedrooms. Riphagen has provided each of these imaginary creatures with a fun description, complete with a Latin name and colour illustrations. The gringibbon, for example, spends most of its time under beds and wardrobes, where its furry body leaves behind the dust we know so well, and the f ying moper – not to be confused with the mosquito – lives inside lamps and has thick, hard skin on its feet so that they don't get burned on the light bulb. This is a beautifully designed book that is great fun to read or just to leaf through. It features 26 nocturnal animals – Riphagen lets her imagination run riot from A for Ammahula to Z for Zzzawnose, coming up with one crazy creature after another. Her happy little band of beasts is sandwiched between endpapers that indicate where in a child's bedroom each of the creatures can be found. The book also includes an index to help you work out whether you've had a visit from one of these peculiar bedroom beasties. Children who dare to enter into Riphagen's bizarre imagination and follow her on this fantastic journey through the bedroom will find a lot to enjoy in this book.

'Riphagen's humorous descriptions and drawings are a real treat for the young reader and deserve to find a wide audience.'
Lezen



Tomorrow's Party

Author
Toon Tellegen
Illustrator
Ingrid Godon
Age **8+**
Pages **101**

Publisher
Querido
Singel 262
1016 AC Amsterdam
www.queridokind.nl
Contact for rights
Lucienne van der Leije
l.van.der.leije@querido.nl

The motto of **Toon Tellegen** (b. 1941) is: "You can do anything with writing." He is, by profession, a general practitioner, but has become famous in the Netherlands as a writer. His many animal stories for children and his poetry and novels for adults, written in a sober, poetic style, evoke unusual and mysterious worlds. His original approach and vivid imagination make it impossible to classify his unique and extensive oeuvre, for which he deservedly won the Constantijn Huygens Prize in 2007.

His best-known titles for children include *Juffrouw Kachel* (Miss Stove), *De verjaardag van de egel* (The Hedgehog's Birthday) and *Pikkuhenki*. Tellegen's work has won many Zilveren and Gouden Griffels and other major literary awards.

Poet and children's writer Toon Tellegen is best known for his poetic animal stories about the squirrel, the ant, the mole and the elephant. The imaginary biotope of Tellegen's forest is a perfect reflection of the world in all its absurdity, impossible to map because there are no clear connecting routes. The creatures who live there make naive and pointless attempts to understand their peculiar world, but rarely receive any clear answers to their important questions, many of which have a philosophical slant.

Morgen was het feest (Tomorrow's Party), is once again packed with layers of meaning, inventiveness, wistfulness, questions, puns and plays on words. However, in terms of structure, Tellegen's latest book is different than his previous offerings. He divides *Morgen was het feest* into four seasons and cleverly weaves the twenty-eight animal stories together, making this book an excellent introduction to Tellegen for younger readers.

First comes winter, with a full-page wintery picture by the highly regarded Flemish illustrator Ingrid Godon. Snowflakes come tumbling down from a pink winter sky, covering the gnarled branches of a brown tree that has a half-frozen squirrel staring out from a hole in the trunk.

The starving squirrel makes "heavy weather" of chasing the winter away, until the swallows herald in the spring. When Squirrel asks why they have chosen that precise moment to appear in the sky, their answer is: "It all happens naturally. After winter, the spring follows naturally."

And so, in his original and captivating style, Tellegen neatly introduces the inevitable circular and linear movement of time, describing the seasons in all of their colourful variety and showing how they influence the animals and their behaviour.

'Tellegen's animal stories are irresistible!' Elsevier

'He creates literature of wonderment. For children. And for those few adults who are still capable of wonder.'
De Groene Amsterdammer

'The words and pictures complement each other perfectly.'
De Morgen



The Ice-cream Factory

Author
Linda Groeneveld
Age 6+
Pages 101

Publisher
Querido
Singel 262
1016 AC Amsterdam
www.queridokind.nl
Contact for rights
Lucienne van der Leije
l.van.der.leije@querido.nl

Linda Groeneveld (b. 1961) studied at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague. She made her debut with *Draken spelen niet met vuur* (Dragons Don't Play with Fire), which she exhibited at the children's book fair in Bologna and then at a number of museums in Japan. She has gone on to illustrate a wide range of children's books and educational titles.

'Once again, *De ijsfabriek* is a flawless tale. Groeneveld's sentences are a pleasure to read.' *NRC Handelsblad*

'*De ijsfabriek* tastes as fresh as lemon sorbet and gives the impression of having been made to a traditional recipe.' *Trouw*

"Ice-cream Boss's Daughter Hates Ice-cream!" This dramatic news makes the headlines in Linda Groeneveld's funny fairytale *De ijsfabriek*. Beachcomber Andrei Zozokof makes such a success of selling ice-cream that his business expands until he has a chain of factories all over the world. Everyone is full of admiration for his amazing career – everyone, that is, except for his daughter. Zozokof finds her attitude hard to accept.

Linda Groeneveld writes and illustrates light-hearted fairy stories that are gentle parodies of the classics. Her books are a fun read for adults who are reading along with their children, and, of course, for children who are familiar with the genre of the fairytale, which is one of the few genres in which authors can make literary jokes that children will understand. Groeneveld does this with palpable pleasure. Her approach is a breath of fresh air, particularly for her young readers. It helps that Groeneveld has chosen a subject that is close to children's hearts: food. In her wonderfully entertaining *Een pannenkoek voor de koningin* (A Pancake for the Queen, Nieuw Amsterdam, 2007), she tells the story of Kobus the cook, who really, really wants to cook for the queen. And, after years of *haute cuisine*, the queen actually quite fancies a pancake. Groeneveld has a great talent for creating fun stories for children, without ever resorting to easy laughs. Her mock-serious, slightly naive pen drawings bring the text to life. Linda Groeneveld's books are full of an infectious charm – her stories remain with the reader.



Lucas in the Snow

Author
Koos Meinderts

Illustrator
Annette Fienieg

Age 8+
Pages 80

Publisher
Lemniscat
Vijverlaan 48
3062 HL Rotterdam
www.lemniscat.nl
Contact for rights
Diana Garibbo
diana@lemniscat.nl

Koos Meinderts (b. 1953) made his debut as a children's writer in 1983. He has also written books for adults and written award-winning songs with singer/cabaret performer Harrie Jekkers. Meinderts has been acclaimed for his theatre work with young people, having successfully adapted a number of his own books for stage performances. His recently published series about a little boy called Keizer (Caesar) has received critical praise, as has *De vuurtoren* (The Lighthouse), a picture book that he created with Fienieg. **Annette Fienieg** (b. 1959) made her debut as an illustrator in 1986. Since then, she has illustrated over eighty children's books for publishers in the Netherlands and abroad, many of which were written by her husband Koos Meinderts.

"When it snows, Lucas, it means that the angels are moulting," Lucas's granddad once told him. Lucas remembers those words when he steps out into a world of whiteness on the final day of the year. On his long walk that morning, the memories come tumbling down through his mind like snowflakes. Lucas has a lot of things to remember – his dad, for example. When they had that sunny holiday on Terschelling, his dad was still around, but now he's dead and buried. And eating cherries in the long grass with Isabel, the girl with the red hair. So many things that felt so good and carefree last summer are now over. Or was everything not quite as wonderful as Lucas would like to remember?

In *Lucas in de sneeuw*, we accompany a pensive Lucas on his walk and find out about the rough patches in his seemingly idyllic childhood. The seductive Miss Blanche with her bright red nails and lips, who didn't flash her friendly smile just at Lucas, but at his father too. The baby rabbits in the stomach of their dead mother. Meinderts conjures up these images in an understated, almost poetic style, projecting the events into the viewer's mind like a series of impressionist paintings, making this novella about loss – the loss of loved ones, but also of childhood innocence – penetrate all the more deeply. However, in spite of the heavy subject matter, this melancholy tale has a rather cheerful tone – not only because the walk helps to clear Lucas's head, but also because of the language, which is simple and transparent, and, of course, the beautiful illustrations. Annette Fienieg has created five enchanting screen-printed pictures that perfectly complement this dreamy story. Meinderts and Fienieg have been creating books together for over twenty years, but rarely have their stories and pictures combined with such power as in *Lucas in de sneeuw*.

'... an original poetic novella that reads as though you're watching an impressionistic short film.'

De Groene Amsterdammer

'Meinderts' unmistakable hallmark: slightly melancholy in tone, with a mixture of poetic and light-hearted language.' *Trouw*



Tjibbe Tjabbes' Voyage around the World

Author
Harm de Jonge

Age 9+
Pages 134

Publisher
Van Goor
Papiermolen 14-24
3994 DK Houten
www.van-goor.nl
Contact for rights
Geri Brandjes
geri@boek-pr.nl

Harm de Jonge (b. 1939) grew up on board a ship. He studied Dutch at university and became a teacher at secondary school before moving on to teacher training. He did not make his debut as a writer until the age of 50, with *Steenkuib is een rat* (Steenkuib is a Rat). Since then, he has continued writing, producing a new book every year. He won the prestigious Woutertje Pieterse Prize in 2006 for *Josja Pruis*. De Jonge's characters are usually to be found having adventures out on the streets or in the countryside and his stories always feature a mysterious friend with an awkward secret. In *Tjibbe Tjabbes' wereldreis*, he deviates from this pattern for the first time.

The panoplied glugg, the sail-slicer, the molochtite and the singing wartbear – there are plenty of weird and wonderful creatures in this book to challenge the translator and delight the reader. *Tjibbe Tjabbes' wereldreis* is a realistic eighteenth-century account of a blood-curdling voyage of zoological discovery. It features a wide range of exotic species with marvellously inventive names, which were never found on Noah's ark and which you won't encounter in any biology books either.

'Harm de Jonge cheerfully mixes up truth and fabrication, inventing an entirely new kind of book.'
Kidsweek

'Faithful to the narrative tradition of the found diary, De Jonge writes a magnificent tall tale, one of the greatest classic genres ever.' *de Volkskrant*

With this book, Harm de Jonge is striding out in a new creative direction. His stories to date have been serious boys' adventures on dry land, but now he wants to sail the seven seas with billowing sails – and all of the associated fisherman's yarns and tall tales. "Nothing in this book is true, and even that's a lie," reads the message on the first page, loosely based on the words of that other great Dutch author Multatuli.

Tjibbe Tjabbes' wereldreis begins on the east coast of Borneo, where the wreck of an old ship is discovered, enclosed in the ribcage of the enormous monster that swallowed it. Near the ship is a watertight chest containing a diary that tells the story of Professor Tjibbe Tjabbes. It emerges that Tjabbes set sail on the orders of two god-fearing Amsterdam merchants, who received a message from the Lord one stormy night: on 7 July 1777 there would be a new Flood. And this time two of every single species would be saved – no more, no less.

A subtle joke in the book is the name of the artist who accompanies the industrious professor on his voyage: Fiel Venius, better known in our time as illustrator Fiel van der Veen. It may be the first time in the history of literature that an illustrator of children's books has actually been allowed to go on a voyage in an adventure story. This just shows how much Harm de Jonge and his illustrator must have enjoyed making this book. It's an outstanding yarn and a book that you won't want to miss.



Little Felix

Author
Peter van Gestel
Age 10+
Pages 130

Publisher
Querido
Singel 262
1016 AC Amsterdam
www.queridokind.nl
Contact for rights
Lucienne van der Leije
l.van.der.leije@querido.nl

Peter van Gestel (b. 1937) was born in Amsterdam, the setting for many of his stories. He has written radio plays and worked as a television scriptwriter. His first books were for adults and he did not make his debut as a children's writer until 1979. Since then, he has published a steady stream of books, about slightly naive children who have little understanding of the adult world around them. However, this lack of comprehension is never cause for bitterness or despair – Van Gestel is a wonderful humorist who often writes a laugh into his lines. His work has won many awards, including the prestigious Theo Thijssen Prize for his oeuvre.

'As in all of Van Gestel's books, the real drama is just out of sight. His story is full of snappy dialogues and masterful observation for readers to enjoy.' *Trouw*

Peter van Gestel has already won an award in recognition of his oeuvre, but he still keeps on writing. *Kleine Felix* is his latest book, which is set in post-war Amsterdam and is reminiscent of his well-received *Winterijs* (Winter Ice).

Felix Wonder is a typical Van Gestel lad: a little grubby around the edges, older than his years and endowed with the gift of the gab. Van Gestel's characters are proper little chatterboxes. However, his characters' conversations rarely result in any real communication: one person asks a question, then someone else asks another question, and there's no chance of any answers, because, by that time, the conversation has moved on too far. Felix himself just rattles away, innocently trusting that his safe little world, with his parents and Veertje, his favourite cousin, always close by, will never change.

However, it doesn't take long to turn a comfortable life upside down. Veertje emigrates to Australia, then Felix's dad gets a job as an entertainer on a ship and both of his parents set off for America, leaving Felix at the "Joyful Children's Home". However, life at the children's home is anything but joyful. Felix doesn't bear too much of a grudge against his parents though: "They abandoned me here, and that wasn't a nice thing to do, but I'll either manage on my own or I won't. You never know how things are going to turn out."

Together with Gerda, an older girl at the home, he makes a run for it when no one is looking. Life on the open road is exciting at first, but soon becomes pretty miserable – the two of them don't have much idea of how to live as runaways and they find out just how easy it is to get lost in a forest.

However, everything turns out fine for Felix, although less so for Gerda. The events in this delightful story are never truly dramatic, but remain small. Traumatic events are defused and ships turn around, bringing back missing family members. Van Gestel describes all of this in his typical, charming style, with a beautifully subtle sense of humour and realistic dialogues. Little Felix is a wonderful character, and this is a wonderful book.



Mother Number Zero

Author
Marjolijn Hof

Age 10+

Pages 127

Publisher

Querido

Singel 262

1016 AC Amsterdam

www.queridokind.nl

Contact for rights

Lucienne van der Leije

l.van.der.leije@querido.nl

"Becoming a writer was my dream," says **Marjolijn Hof** (b. 1956) on her website. However, she was not sure how to make that dream come true. She became a librarian specialising in books for children and young adults, but still she kept on dreaming about writing wonderful children's books with no age limit – until 1999, when she decided to take up writing as a profession. She did so with astounding results – rarely has a new name made such an impact on the world of Dutch children's literature. "A breath of fresh air", "a surprising new voice": these were some of the critics' opinions following publication of Hof's *Een kleine kans* (her first 9+ book). In 2007, she achieved recognition in the form of three major prizes, winning the Gouden Uil Jeugdliteratuurprijs, the Gouden Uil Prijs van de Jonge Lezer and the Gouden Griffel. *Een kleine kans* has been published in translation in Germany, France, Slovenia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Norway and Poland. Hof's second book *Oversteken* (Crossing Over) was also well received and has been translated into German, French and Japanese. The rights for *Moeder nummer nul* were sold to Germany shortly after publication in the Netherlands.

When Fejzo was eight, he had to fill in the boxes on a form at school to make his family tree. There was only one box for a mother. "I'm adopted," Fejzo told his teacher, so she allowed him to draw another box for his other mother. He called his biological mother "Mother 1" and his adoptive mother "Mother 2". "I regretted it straightaway. My mum who's my mum now had suddenly become number two. I quickly rubbed it all out and filled in the boxes again. In the first box I wrote: Mother 0. And in the second box I put: Mother 1."

Since then – Fejzo is now three years older – he has referred to the woman who gave birth to him as "Mother Number Zero". This wonderfully inventive phrase is reminiscent of the original twists and turns in the mind of Kiki (Kiek), the protagonist of *Een kleine kans* (A Small Chance), Marjolijn Hof's debut. Hof captures all of Fejzo's ambivalent emotions in the name "Mother Number Zero": he wants to be fair to both mothers, without denying that one of them is just a little more important than the other. Zero comes before one, but one is something

and zero is nothing. Fortunately, Hof doesn't feel the need to explain this to the reader. She does, however, point out that Fejzo prefers not to use the term "biological mother", because it reminds him of washing powder. Hof's sense of humour ensures that the story has a cheerful atmosphere. What Fejzo likes doing best of all is sitting on a bench in the park drawing birds. One day, he meets Maud in the park. This encounter seems a little manufactured, as though it's designed with the aim of setting the main narrative in motion: another precocious child who likes sitting in the park by herself strikes up a conversation with Fejzo and her questions get him thinking about his unusual past. Hof could perhaps have thought this scenario through a little more carefully. However, what comes next is both plausible and easy to identify with: following his conversation with Maud, Fejzo starts to wonder whether he inherited his talent for drawing from Mother Number Zero. He decides to look for her, but he's not entirely sure that he wants to find her. She might be a drunkard or she might suddenly decide that she wants to have him back! Although the book is not an autobiography, Marjolijn Hof based her story on her own experiences as an adopted child. This can be seen in the great precision with which she sketches Fejzo's inner development and thought processes. Rather than making Fejzo's tale a sensational story with a spectacular finish, Hof keeps it wonderfully small and detailed.

'precise, subtle and yet still accessible [...] This touching novel is even better than Hof's Gouden Griffel winner *Een kleine kans*.' Kidsweek

'magnificent [...] An original and captivating story about adoption.'
Algemeen dagblad

Thinking Half a Dog Whole: A Book about Looking

Author
Joke van Leeuwen

Age 10+
Pages 125

Publisher
Querido
Singel 262
1016 AC Amsterdam
www.queridokind.nl
Contact for rights
Lucienne van der Leijde
l.van.der.leijde@querido.nl

"I strip things of their familiarity by looking at them in a different way," says Joke van Leeuwen (b. The Hague, 1952), author of unique books for children and adults, poet, artist and performer. Anyone who reads her work, for which she has received the Theo Thijssen Prize, will see for themselves just how she turns our everyday linguistic and visual reality inside out, just as she does in *Een halve hond heel denken*. Her work may be described as gently absurdist, anarchic, humorous and rich in imagery, both literally and figuratively. Van Leeuwen, who studied graphic arts at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp and history at the Vrije Universiteit in Brussels, is a deserving winner of her many prizes, which include Griffels, Penselen and many other important literary awards.

As modern media consumers, we receive around four thousand images projected onto our retinas every day. Four thousand! That's an incredible number. But there's no way of stopping them. The digitisation of the 21st century is an irreversible process and the visual culture is now more dominant than ever. The highly regarded and very versatile author/illustrator Joke van Leeuwen has written a beautifully designed book on this very subject. In one of the best literary non-fiction books of recent years, she tells children about the things that they can spy with their little eyes – and about all of the tricks that your

eyes can play on you. The intriguing title *Thinking Half a Dog Whole* (*Een halve hond heel denken*) is a reference to one of the phenomena that Van Leeuwen discusses in the book: the fact that we sometimes "see" more than is actually in the picture. In her usual clear and captivating style, Van Leeuwen explains that it's all the work of our imagination: "Our eyes receive what they see and our brains compare that with what they already know." In other words, we see a picture of half a dog and complete the rest in our minds. But there are also times when we see less than is in the picture, because we take so much for granted when we look at everyday objects. As Van Leeuwen says, "Sometimes you really can't tell whether what seems real actually is real." This fascinating theme connects the thirteen chapters, in which Van Leeuwen presents a lively picture of a wide variety of subjects, including advertising, the history of drawing, medieval symbolism, the golden ratio, how the eye works and a chapter "about visible and invisible lines and how they help and point and sometimes even look shy". All of this makes *Een halve hond heel denken* a very accessible, wonderfully colourful book. So, open your eyes, take a look and be amazed.

'A book that teaches you to pay more attention to what you're looking at.' *De Standaard*

'Inimitable, understated humour, crystal-clear language, clear and simple examples. Joke van Leeuwen is one of the greats. Everything she touches seems to turn to gold.'
GPD-bladen



The Boy Who Found Happiness

Author
**Edward van de Vendel
and Anoush Elman**

Age 12+
Pages 332

Publisher
Querido
Singel 262
1016 AC Amsterdam
www.queridokind.nl
Contact for rights
Lucienne van der Leije
l.van.der.leije@querido.nl

Since his debut *Betrap me* (Catch Me), a poetry collection for young readers, **Edward van de Vendel** (b. 1964) has not stopped writing. He initially combined his writing career with a job as a primary teacher, but has now been a full-time author since 2001, creating a constant flow of writing. Rarely has there been an author who writes so successfully in such a variety of genres and subjects. Van de Vendel has created fun poetry books for children – including *Superguppy* (Superguppy), which won the Woutertje Pieterse Prize – stage plays, songs, comedy books for younger readers and evocative, complex novels for young adults, including *De dagen van de Bluegrassliefde* (The Days of Bluegrass Love) and *Ons derde lichaam* (Our Third Body), both winners of the Gouden Zoen award. The social awareness that he shows in *De gelukvinder* is a new development and one that is to be welcomed.

De gelukvinder is a spectacular book for adolescent readers, in which Edward van de Vendel relates the eventful life of Afghan refugee Hamayun, a seventeen-year-old whose character is based on that of co-author Anoush Elman. Together with his family, Anoush fled from the Taliban, ending up in the Netherlands more or less by chance, after an incredible journey.

De gelukvinder is the first book in Querido's new Slash series, initiated by Van de Vendel himself: a series of novels written by well-known Dutch authors and based on dramatic life stories of young people today, with the aim of introducing more realistic social issues into the world of the literary children's book.

Although the series has educational goals, *De gelukvinder* is very much a literary novel. Van de Vendel cleverly avoids indoctrination and preaching by allowing events to speak for themselves. For instance, when Hamayun's mother arrives in Iran, she expresses her newfound freedom by throwing her burqa into a litterbin. The only comment she makes is: "Well, that's that then."

The film-like character of the book is reinforced by its structure, which resembles a collection of scenes from a

documentary. Hamayun writes the script for his drama teacher, who believes that the Western world needs to know about the suffering of refugees.

Hamayun throws himself into his school project, painting a vivid picture of his plight. The threat of the Taliban is truly frightening, as it slowly destroys Hamayun's freethinking father, a teacher, and chases him from his homeland. The farewell from Hamayun's grandmother and baby brother is painful – they stay behind in Afghanistan to allow the others to "flee by the fastest route". The "road movie" section of the book, covering Hamayun's months of flight, is absolutely gripping. And Hamayun's "uprooted feeling" is deeply tragic – he describes this as "the sense that everyone else in the whole world has a house and work and friends [...]. And that we have been cut off from that world."

Although the story is intense, the tone remains light. This lightness of tone, together with the wide variety of realistic characters and Hamayun's fascinating coming-of-age story, combine to make *De gelukvinder* a remarkable book with universal relevance.

**'More than all of the newspaper
articles ever written on the
subject, Edward van de Vendel
gives asylum-seekers not only
a face, but also a heart. It's
enough to make you speechless.**

Trouw

'a truly great novel'

NRC Handelsblad



Ten a Penny

Authors

**Mirjam Oldenhave and
Cynthia van Eck**

Age 12+

Pages 126

Publisher

Querido

Singel 262

1016 AC Amsterdam

www.queridokind.nl

Contact for rights

Lucienne van der Leije

l.van.der.leije@querido.nl

Mirjam Oldenhave (b. 1960) has written over twenty children's books and is best known for her amusing, realistic stories, such as *Donna Lisa* (which won a Vlag en Wimpel award) and *Mees Kees*. She is widely respected for her writing skills and has an admiring host of young readers, which is no surprise. Her life as a foster parent and her previous work experience (ten years as a drama therapist for problem children) have given her perfect insight into children and their concerns. She lives with her husband in Amsterdam, where she combines her writing with work as a tutor at the SCRIPTplus writing academy. *Voor jou tien anderen* is a fine demonstration of her talent.

Voor jou tien anderen by Mirjam Oldenhave is the second book in Querido's extraordinary new Slash series: YA novels that are based on the true, remarkable life stories of young people, written with the aim of introducing more realistic social issues into books for young Dutch readers and, hopefully, enticing more adolescents to read. Oldenhave has accomplished this task with great success.

Oldenhave is not just a popular children's author – she's also a foster parent. This was how she came to meet Cynthia van Eck (17), an orphan whose heartrending life story she relates in *Voor jou tien anderen*. Using a minimum of words and carefully selected episodes, she transforms the events to create a gripping narrative that operates on different levels. It's a tragicomedy that touches the heart.

Cynthia begins her story with the bare facts: "There were three bedrooms in the flat: one for Mama Riet, one for her daughter Mia and one for her foster children [...] When people brought a child to her, Mama Riet always said yes, as she had a big heart. But she also had a small flat, so the floor of the third bedroom was covered with mattresses and airbeds." The deep tragedy of Cynthia's situation only gradually dawns on the reader.

Poverty-stricken Mama Riet is completely incapable as a foster parent: no school, dry bread for dinner, the television test card for entertainment and threats of a child molester when the children quarrel.

The realisation that these children view their situation as normal and are "perfectly happy" with Mama Riet is a painful jolt for the reader, as is Cynthia's anguish when the child welfare organisation intervenes and Mama Riet declares that children like Cynthia are "ten a penny". Cynthia's story then develops into a quest for love and self-confidence.

Oldenhave's talent for writing ensures that this quest is a very moving one.

'an impressive novel [...] Oldenhave's skill has become mastery in this book. In spite of the restrained narrative style, you can feel that she is present in this book with heart and soul!' NRC Handelsblad

'a very smart and touching book'
Kidsweek



Isa's Dream

Author
Marco Kunst

Age 14+
Pages 303

Publisher
Querido
Singel 262
1016 AC Amsterdam
www.queridokind.nl
Contact for rights
Lucienne van der Leije
l.van.der.leije@querido.nl

Marco Kunst (b. 1966) is a worthy successor to Philip Pullman, Ursula Le Guin and Tonke Dragt: as a writer of science fiction and fantasy, he knows that imaginary universes have to be governed by rules and constructed with great care. All of the fictional "facts" and related metaphors have to be completely plausible. Otherwise the story loses all credibility.

Both in *Gewist* (Wiped, which won the Charlotte Köhler Stipendium for the best debut in 2007) and in *Isa's dream*, Kunst uses this knowledge to great effect, maintaining pace and excitement throughout his stories. His talent, combined with his background in philosophy and love for other art forms, make Kunst a writer to watch. He is now working on a book for adults.

Marco Kunst is one of those rare and remarkable authors who take the genre of fantasy seriously. He demonstrated this in his award-winning science-fiction novel *Gewist* (Wiped, 2004) and has proved it once again with *Isa's dream*, a cleverly constructed fantasy, rip-roaring adventure and sophisticated *Bildungsroman*, all in one book. Marco Kunst takes an exceptionally original approach and succeeds in the tricky task of creating an authentic fantasy world.

When sixteen-year-old Isa swallows sleeping pills after a failed audition for TV programme *Winners & Losers*, she slips into a coma and wakes up, dazed and amazed, on the rugged island of "Inner Land", a metaphorical territory representing Isa's interior, her psyche.

The map of Inner Land is clearly based on Freud's egg-shaped sketch of the structure of the human mind and the topography also sounds familiar. Areas such as the Inner Eye, or Sea of Perception, the Motor Jungle, the Mountains of the Super-Ego, Repressia, Obsessivia and the River of Life meandering through the island all demonstrate just how carefully Kunst has constructed this imaginary land. The coherence and credibility of the story never falter for a moment.

Kunst skilfully uses words to play with the idea of "real" and "unreal" all the way through the book. Everything in Inner Land is just an image. However, Isa realises that she has to take her quest seriously. She breathes life into the images, allowing them to develop into rounded, believable characters.



These characters include her dead brother Seb, who lives on as "Memory", and Izzy, Isa's "young Self-image". They all find themselves in the same "metaphorical boat".

Isa teams up with Izzy and Seb and they set off to battle against Alysha, Isa's "fantasy", her "morbid Obsession", her self-image as a pop idol. Alysha, together with her sinister Mantras, is responsible for the dam that is blocking Izzy's River of Life and causing the Inner Land to dry out.

In her quest, Isa is supported by a cast of exciting and original characters, including the loquacious seaman Sentirus, "a member of the perception club", and Lady Justice, who tells Isa that she is there to weigh her, not to show her the way.

Isa's dream is packed with subtle humour and clever puns – combined with Kunst's vivid descriptions of the landscape and the compelling pace of the plot, they make this a story that you have to read in one sitting. It's an easy read, in spite of its serious theme.

'Freud meets Indiana Jones in this ingenious story about a girl in a coma.' *NRC Handelsblad*

'You can read *Isa's dream* as an inventive fantasy story or as a rip-roaring adventure. But it is primarily a clever psychological novel about the way that fears, dreams and ambitions can alienate you from yourself, about the battle that you must fight to regain your true self.' *Trouw*

Recent Translations

Over a hundred Dutch children's books are published in translation every year, by publishers all over the world. Depicted is a small selection of titles that have received financial support for the translation by the Foundation for the Production and Translation of Dutch Literature. Please contact us if you are interested in publishing a Dutch book in your country.



German edition (Beltz & Gelberg) of **Winterijs** by Peter van Gestel (Querido, 2001), translated by Mirjam Pressler.



French edition (Bayard Jeunesse) of **De prinses met de lange haren** by Peter van Gestel (Querido, 2001), translated by Joëlle Cariou.



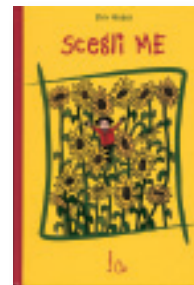
German edition (Gerstenberg Verlag) of **Schijnbewegingen** (De Fontein, 2005), translated by Rolf Erdorf.



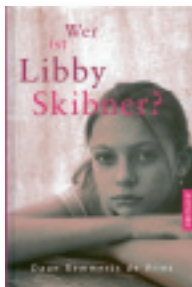
Japanese edition (Iwanami Shoten) of **Geheimen van het wilde woud** by Tonke Dragt (Leopold, 1961) translated by Yumi Nishimura.



German edition (Boje Verlag) of **Waar is Rintje?** by Sieb Posthuma (Querido, 2005) translated by Rolf Erdorf.



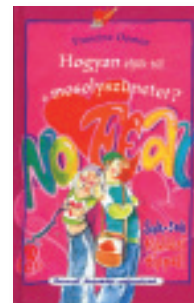
Italian edition (Il Castoro) of **Kies mij!** by Dirk Weber (Querido, 2005) translated by Laura Pignatti.



German edition (Dressler Verlag) of **Wie is Libby Skibner?** by Daan Remmerts de Vries (Querido, 2007) translated by Andrea Kluitmann.



German edition (Peter Hammer Verlag) of **De dans van de drummers** by Hans Hagen (Querido, 2003) translated by Stefanie Schäfer.



Hungarian edition (Animus) of **Hoe overleef ik met/ zonder jou?** by Francine Oomen (Holkema & Van Warendorf, 2004) translated by Krisztina Törö.



Slovenian edition (Miš Založba) of **Het boek van alle dingen** by Guus Kuijer (Querido, 2004) translated by Mateja Seliškar Kenda.



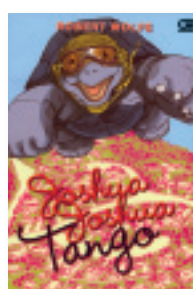
Korean edition (Changbi Publishing) of **Toen Faas niet thuiskwam** by Guus Kuijer (Querido, 2003) translated by Young-Jin Kim.



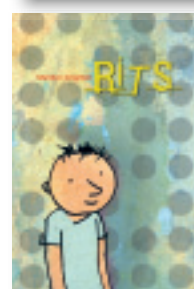
German edition (Bloomsbury) of **Een kleine kans** by Marjolijn Hof (Querido, 2006) translated by Meike Blatnik.



Russian edition (Zakharov) of **Mijn avonturen door V.Schworm** by Toon Tellegen (Querido, 1998) translated by Irina Trofimova.



Indonesian edition (Gramedia Pustaka Utama) of **Joshua Joshua Tango** by Robert Wolfe (De Harmonie, 2004) translated by Monique Soesman and Maja Sutedja-Liem.



English edition (Front Street) of **Rits** by Mariken Jongman (Lemniscaat, 2005) translated by Wanda Boeke.

The Foundation

The Foundation for the Production and Translation of Dutch Literature (NLPVF) stimulates interest in Dutch literary fiction, non-fiction, poetry and children's books by providing information and granting translation subsidies. The foundation maintains contacts with a large number of international publishers, and has a stand at major international book fairs, including the Frankfurt Book Fair, the London Book Fair and the Children's Book Fair in Bologna.

Translation Grants

Foreign publishers wishing to publish translations of Dutch or Frisian literature, including children's literature, quality non-fiction and poetry, may apply for a subsidy towards the translation costs. Having acquired the publishing rights to a Dutch or Frisian literary work, the publisher's application for a subsidy must be accompanied by a copy of the contract between the foreign publisher and the owner of the Dutch rights, and a copy of the contract with the translator. Publishers must make use of specific application forms which are available from the foundation.

Picture Books

In the case of high quality illustrated children's books, foreign publishers can apply for financial assistance to cover a proportion of the production costs. The amount granted is based on the direct production costs per copy. Subsidies granted under this scheme are funded by the Mondriaan Foundation and the NLPVF.

Considerations

In deciding whether or not to grant a subsidy, the foundation takes account of the following considerations:

- the literary quality of the book
- the status of the publisher
- the quality of the translator

If the translator is unknown to the foundation, a sample translation is required. This will be evaluated by external advisors. The maximum possible subsidy is 70% of the total cost of translation. Applications for subsidies for translations which have already been published will not be considered.

The Foundation for the Production and Translation of Dutch Literature

Singel 464
1017 AW Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel. +31 20 620 62 61
Fax +31 20 620 71 79
office@nlpvf.nl
www.nlpvf.nl

Children's Books

Agnes Vogt, a.vogt@nlpvf.nl

Fiction

Henk Pröpper, h.proepper@nlpvf.nl
Maria Vlaar, m.vlaar@nlpvf.nl

Non-Fiction

Maarten Valken, m.valken@nlpvf.nl

Poetry

Thomas Möhlmann, t.moehlmann@nlpvf.nl

Children's Books From Holland is published by the Foundation for the Production and Translation of Dutch Literature. Spring 2009.

The bulletin is distributed free of charge to foreign publishers and editors.

If you would like to receive Children's Books From Holland please contact the editorial office.

Editorial office

Singel 464
1017 AW Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone +31 20 620 62 61
Fax +31 20 620 71 79
office@nlpvf.nl
www.nlpvf.nl

Editors

Dick Broer, Barbara Mazzotta, Agnes Vogt

Contributors

Joukje Akveld, Pjotr van Lenteren,
Bas Maliepaard, Mirjam Noorduijn

Translation

Laura Watkinson

Photography

Delano van Diest

Printing

Drukkerij Mart.Spruijt bv

Design

Philip Stroomberg



Children's
Books from
Holland
Spring
2009

