

A fable about life and death

Somersault Day

ANNE PROVOOST & AN CANDAELE

Zsofi jumps off a star and falls down to earth, little suitcase in hand. This is her Somersault Day. A woman climbs out of Zsofi's suitcase, picks her up and holds her tight. Introducing herself as the woman of her life, she gives the child milk to drink. The woman also has a suitcase, out of which she pulls all the necessary equipment to put up a tent. Hitching a ride in her suitcase is a man, who in turn carries a suitcase as well. And not only does it contain a horse with a long flaxen tail, it also holds a woman: Kej, the man's mother.

'Somersault Day' is imaginative from beginning to end.

DE STANDAARD

Kej is old and sick and tells Zsofi that her Somersault Day is approaching. She has travelled along to say goodbye. She is quite serene as she prepares for her departure and sets off for the end of the world without her suitcase. Zsofi savours the woman's scent, which lingers in the empty suitcase.

'Somersault Day' is a gripping story about life, love, death and saying goodbye. An Candaele's moving illustrations reflect the vulnerability of little Zsofi. Simple yet intimate, they are a perfect complement to Anne Provoost's exuberant and philosophical text.

A fine symbiosis of text and image

DE MORGEN



AUTHORS



Anne Provoost (b. 1964) is not afraid of more difficult and topical themes and uses a sober and atmospheric style. Often her books are situated on the threshold between youth and adult literature. She has received numerous prestigious awards for her novels. *Photo © Sophie Kandaouroff* **An Candaele** (b. 1959) first published in 1995. Her work is versatile: accessible pictures for young children to more complex illustrations experimenting with colour and perspective. Her compositions are playful and funny. 'Sleep Well, Rosalie' (Slaap lekker, Rosalie), by Brigitte Minne, brought her international success. Over 100,000 copies have been printed of the Korean version alone.

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