

Growing up, letting go and coming home

When Willy Found His Wings

ALAIN VERSTER & INGE BERGH

This is not your average picture book, but a highly original and gripping story.

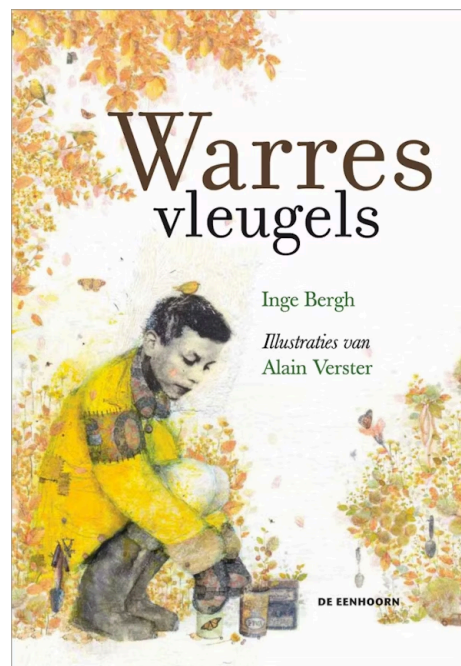
PLUIZUIT

Willy's father is keen to teach his son something new every day. But every time he looks over the boy's shoulder, something goes wrong. Willy is growing clumsier by the day. He can never do anything right in his father's eyes. Then one day his father decides to send Willy out into the great, wide world to discover his talents. He sends him on his way with the words: 'Leave the forest. Go somewhere.' His journey brings him to an old woman who gives him shelter in her little cottage in the forest. Willy helps the woman and she appreciates his assistance. And so, step by step, Willy finds his own way in life, grows and gets to know himself better. Once Willy has built up enough self-confidence, he returns home. In his absence, his father has also had a chance to think things over.

These dreamy and poetic drawings are quite remarkable and original.

NDB BIBLION

'When Willy Found His Wings' is a moving story about growing up, letting go and coming home. Bergh's sentences are poetic and evocative, with eloquent silences and multiple layers of meaning. Alain Verster's nostalgic illustrations are a beautiful match for Bergh's text, visualising the underlying emotions in a sophisticated collage style with shades of warm orange and yellow.



AUTHORS



Alain Verster (b. 1984) makes collages that have a very distinct nostalgic feel to them. By using old photographs combined with crêpe paper tape, pencil, acrylic paint and oil paint, he creates sober and humorous illustrations, containing lots of little details. **Inge Bergh** (b. 1974) made her debut in 1997 with her young adult novel 'Don't Tell Anyone'. Since then she has published some 40 books for children of all ages. Some of her work has been translated into English, French, Danish, Chinese, Korean and Portuguese. She draws her inspiration from social issues, the arts and her immediate surroundings. In 2015 Inge received the Vlag en Wimpel accolade.

ORIGINAL TITLE Warres vleugels (2012, De Eenhoorn, 32 pp.)

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