

A remarkable retelling of an ancient story

The Creation

BART MOEYAERT & WOLF ERLBRUCH

A highly original story of creation: not a word too many, clever illustrations by Wolf Erlbruch, a beautiful picture book

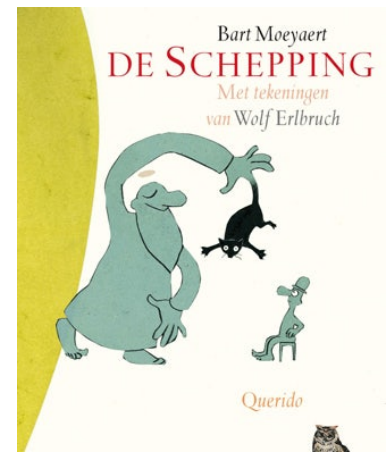
BOEKENLEEUW JURY

A narrator – naked, save for a bowler hat – shares with us the beginning of everything: God, himself and a chair to sit on, that's all there is. The narrator feels rather astonished and bewildered, sitting next to the God of Creation. He is all eyes and makes the occasional pointed remark about the overwhelming beauty of it all – out of powerlessness, really. His grumpiness is a symptom of his size, of feeling minuscule before God. He feels insignificant compared to the great creator and thinks he has no place in the story of creation – he is just a mistake. Until he ends up in a bed of sheep, flanked by a woman with whom he will explore life and the rest of creation.

Moeyaert has given a completely new spin on a story that's been told for centuries, without in any way detracting from the original.

ZILVEREN GRIFFEL JURY

'The Creation' is a poetic book about a little man who is not afraid to fire existential questions at God and who gradually finds his own place in the world. Author and illustrator combine simplicity and scintillating philosophy. Erlbruch conjures with tissue and squared paper, pencil and water colour to create gorgeous images which, like Moeyaert's language, are as funny and strong as they are stark. The success of 'The Creation' was followed by 'Paradise' and 'Heaven', the second and third instalments in the trilogy.



AUTHORS



Bart Moeyaert's (b. 1964) books often deal with complex existential subjects, in an insightful and accessible way. In 2019 he won the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. *Photo © Diego Franssens* **Wolf Erlbruch** (b. 1948) is arguably Germany's best known illustrator. He won the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen prize in 2006 and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in 2017.

ORIGINAL TITLE De schepping (2003, Querido, 32 pp.)

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