

In search of a house and home

Giant

KLAAS VERPLANCKE

Giant is tall and thin, a melancholy thinker. Half the world lives between the roof on Giant's head and his toes in the cellar. And yet he's lonely. He's left bald and bereft when the wind snatches the roof off his head. He hears the voice of the Wind's Child everywhere, but can't get a hold of her. His loneliness grows until Giant goes to lie alone in the snow.

What follows is one of the most dramatic images in the book: the trees around his head give Giant, numbed by the cold, the appearance of a suffering, Christ-like figure complete with crown of thorns, shut out from the human world for being different. The people want to help Giant, but they lack the means to do so. That which is an umbrella for a person is just a thimble to Giant, and human food nothing more than a crumb.

The story and the illustrations work together in perfect harmony.

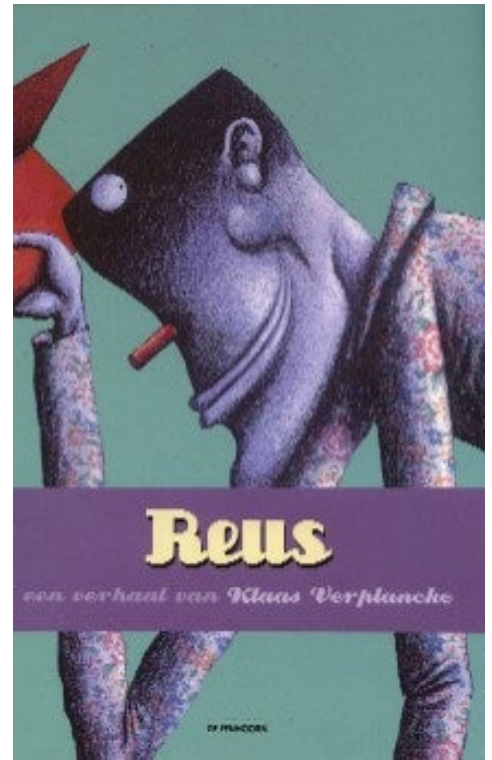
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After a long journey, he meets the Wind's Child and finds a home in the world of stories and imagination: a house that he's not too big for. The Wind's Child also shows him how you can travel in stories, see new places and meet new people.

'Giant' is a poetic story floating in the surrealistic atmosphere created by Klaas Verplancke. Together with 'Nelly', it forms a diptych about the necessity of friendship and companionship.

A giant pleasure

NBD BIBLION



AUTHOR



Klaas Verplancke's (b. 1964) oeuvre is very diverse, but always features a sense of humour ranging from gentle to sardonic, a poetic imagination, a preference for the depiction of abstract concepts and universal emotions, and a quirky, surrealist view of the world.

ORIGINAL TITLE Reus (2005, De Eenhoorn, 32 pp.)

FORMAT 305 x 195

AGE 5+

PRIZES Literature Prize of the Province West-Flanders, Boekenwelp, nominated for the Best Designed Book Award, Premio Alpi Apuane, Miglior libro per l'infanzia 'Premio Ubaldo Bellugi'

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