

A groundbreaking return to the essence

# Cycling

GREGIE DE MAEYER

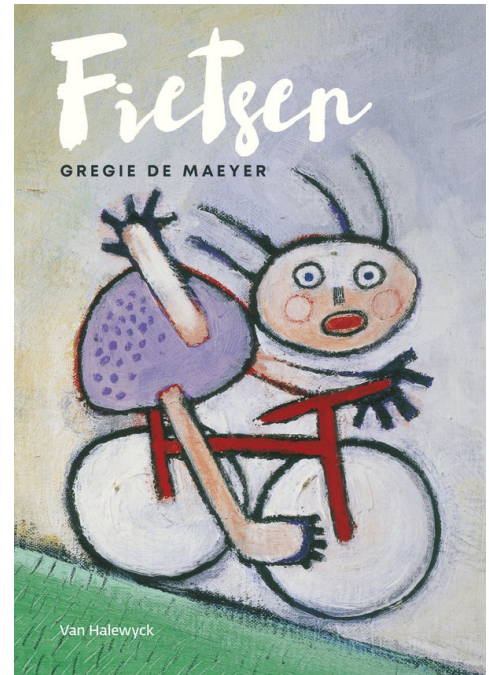
In 1993 Gregie De Maeyer was a much-lauded writer and illustrator, who had garnered numerous awards with his colourful drawings and cheerful stories. But with 'Cycling' he made a radical U-turn. The drawings went back to basics and the text was imbued with a similar intensity. Bet is tired of her tricycle and wants to start cycling on a proper bike. But nobody is prepared to teach her. She is angry with everything and everyone. This book, with a style that borders on expressionism, earned De Maeyer the Flemish State Prize for Youth Literature.

**Gregie De Maeyer translates the big existential questions for children in an unflinching and accurate way**

JURY REPORT FLEMISH STATE PRIZE FOR YOUTH LITERATURE

'In a Hole' followed later that same year. Huey is in a hole and doesn't know how he got there or how to get out again. Nobody pays him the slightest bit of attention. Or do they? Lastly, in 1994, 'Mummy' was published, in which Helena would love to crawl back into her mum's tummy before discovering that being a big girl has its advantages too.

To mark the twentieth anniversary of Gregie De Maeyer's death, Van Halewyck has collected these three books, in which De Maeyer experiments with different illustration techniques, into a single volume. It is clear from reading these texts just how good he was at empathising with toddlers and preschoolers, for whom not everything is always fun. The State Prize jury praised their authenticity, warmth and emotional impact. An unmissable collection from one of the godfathers of Flemish children's literature.



## AUTHOR



**Gregie De Maeyer** (1951-1998) was a pioneer in Flemish children's and young adult literature. In 1976 De Maeyer broke through as an illustrator alongside author Henri Van Daele. The two formed an unbeatable duo. From 1985 he also began to create books on his own, and soon started receiving major prizes. In 1993 he published 'Cycling', which marked a major transition from his colourful, cheerful style to rough line drawings in ink and an intensity in both text and image. The switch was met with appreciation and earned him the Flemish State Prize for Youth Literature. De Maeyer continued to experiment right up until his premature death and left an unmistakable legacy as an innovative illustrator, writer and designer.

*Photo © Alex Deyaert*

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