

A portrait of a close friendship

Rabbit and Hedgehog

NILS PIETERS & PAUL VERREPT

Rabbit and Hedgehog are sworn friends. In these short stories, they ponder life, their friendship, the meaning of 'later', and always go back to each other after an argument. They often disagree and do not always understand what the other is talking about, but that does not stop them from trying. They are scared, they are cheerful, they are insecure, they are pompous and they are a bit crazy. But together, if at all possible.

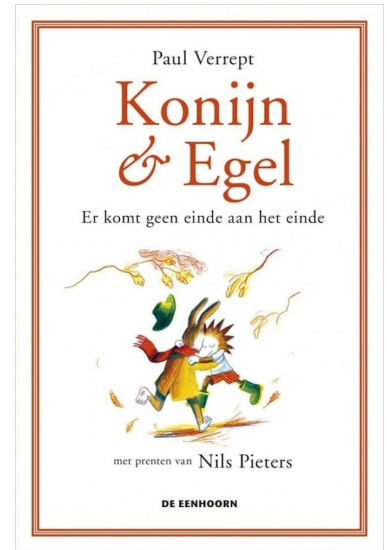
Pieters invests Rabbit and Hedgehog with both a heart and a soul.

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In the tradition of Arnold Lobel's 'Frog and Toad' and Toon Tellegen's animal fables, Paul Verrept and Nils Pieters have created two lovely new characters to cherish. With bright colours and his distinctive free-flowing style, Pieters brings the duo to life, and manages to give them very individual personalities. Verrept says no more than necessary, and that is exactly enough in this moving collection.

Pieters knows how to evoke the emotions that smoulder below the surface.

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AUTHORS



Nils Pieters (b. 1986) has a highly distinctive, expressive signature style characterised by an abundance of bright and warm colours. This palette contributes to the mood of his work and ensures that the joy leaps off the pages. At first sight, his illustrations look cute, but they do have an edge to them and are full of funny details. Pieters combines his work as an illustrator with teaching at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sint-Niklaas. Paul Verrept (b. 1963) is an author and illustrator. He writes his gently philosophical stories about life, love and death with candour and an eye for vivid detail. Verrept's characters have a certain innocence: they gaze at the world with wide-open eyes. They are vulnerable, but also resilient. No matter how badly life bruises them, they always stand back up again. Verrept sketches them with a great deal of compassion. *Photo © Marleen Nelen*

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