

POETRY

A female Johnny Cash

Where We Came From

CARMIEEN MICHELS

Carmien Michels has a history on stage. She won the Dutch Poetry Slam Championship, came in third at the Poetry Slam World Championship and became the European Champion later that year. Her debut poetry collection 'From Where We Came' bears witness to the way her poetry grew on stage.

In the printed version of her oral poetry, Michels is successfully looking for her own voice.

POËZIEKRANT

'Where We Came From' consists of ten series of poems that are carefully assembled and contain a great diversity of subjects. However, the poems share a longing to look back at where things start – the opening series reflects on birth as the beginning – and at how they develop, mostly in a rather devastating way.

Michels' verses show a political and social engagement that is more often than not 'right in your face', although there is also plenty of room for personal and loving irony, doubt and self-criticism. The poems often bear traces of the oral situation they were written for in the first place, but her writing is equally strong on paper.

Poet Carmien Michels makes sharp observations and creates a dark, often fragmented world.

DE VOLKSKRANT

Poems on the migrant crisis and (neo)colonialism are combined with harsh love poems inspired by Pablo Neruda: this debut shows all the skills needed for a promising poetic career.



AUTHOR



Carmien Michels (1990) is a Belgian writer and performer that dances between pen and podium, between the urban and the classic. She explores verbal and non-verbal language in all its forms, in her educational and artistic practices and in her research. She holds a Master's degree in Drama (Media, Writing and Performance Art) and a Postgraduate degree in drama teaching at the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp. For her graduation project, she wrote her debut novel 'We are Water' (2013). Her second novel 'Lightning Never Lies' (2015) and her poetic debut 'From Where We Came' (2017) were published by Polis Books. In 2016 she won the Dutch Poetry Slam Championship, came in third at the World Championships of Poetry Slam and became the European Champion later that year. She graces scores of international stages, organizes events, presents, teaches, and collaborates with artists of all disciplines.

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