

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Absurd story of creation in dazzling colours

Buck

FREDERIK VAN DEN STOCK

In the beginning... there is Buck, the first man on earth. He invents language and starts naming everything in his paradise. And while doing so he discovers himself. Inspired by the beauty of everything that surrounds him, he decides that there ought to be a creator, and so after man he also creates a god. Before long, when Buck concludes that he is the sole and most solitary man on earth, god becomes the target of his anger. Spurred on by hatred for his creator he invents fire, followed soon after by an anti-aircraft cannon and an atomic bomb. But just as he is about to destroy himself – and therefore god – he spots something that makes life worth living: woman. However, seemingly blind to his genius she turns him down, again and again. Having invented art as well as writing and money, the market economy and child labour, and having established a town and a religion... Buck still lacks what matters most.

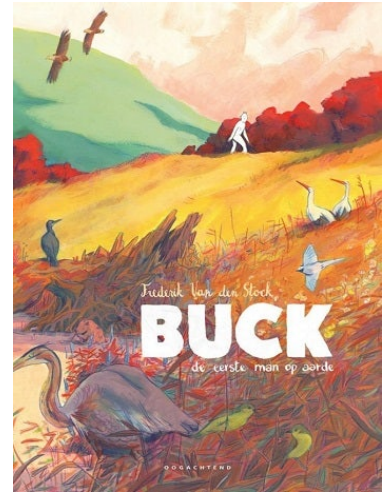
A delightful book that remains just as witty, over-the-top, lyrical and sympathetic after multiple readings

TZUM

'Buck' is the long-awaited debut by Frederik Van den Stock, who had already made a name for himself with short stories and cartoons. This absurd but very clever story of creation, full of acerbic wit, shows us a wonderfully anachronistic paradise filled with dazzling colours, in which Buck wanders like a blank page. The humour, the well-structured narrative and the awe-inspiring natural beauty make 'Buck' a very impressive debut indeed.

This is a truly major debut. 'Buck' is pretty terrific.

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AUTHOR



Humour is an important element in the work of **Frederik Van den Stock** (b. 1986). After graduating from Luca School of Arts in Brussels, he worked as a cartoonist for Knack magazine for many years, and also contributed illustrations to The New York Times, Apple and the city of Antwerp. In recent years he has made several short comics and in 2019 he published *Buck*, a graphic novel about the first man on earth. Van den Stock lives in Antwerp and enjoys birdwatching. Photo © Alain François

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