

A biographical fantasy

Posthumous

JEROEN JANSSEN & PIETER VAN OUDHEUSDEN

‘Posthumous’ is an imaginative ode to the life and music of Franz Schubert. In impressive black-and white woodcuts, we encounter the young composer on his deathbed in his brother’s house. Here, colourful, feverish dreams take over and we dive into some of Schubert’s most famous songs, in which he himself plays the leading part. We meet many ghosts from his past: the great master Beethoven, whom he worshipped like no other, the women he was secretly and hopelessly in love with, his friends and even Austria’s secret police. Every song has its own background colour and is based on both facts and fantasy. Beethoven, alongside whom Schubert was eventually buried, frequently returns to wreck his shaky self-confidence with consummate skill.

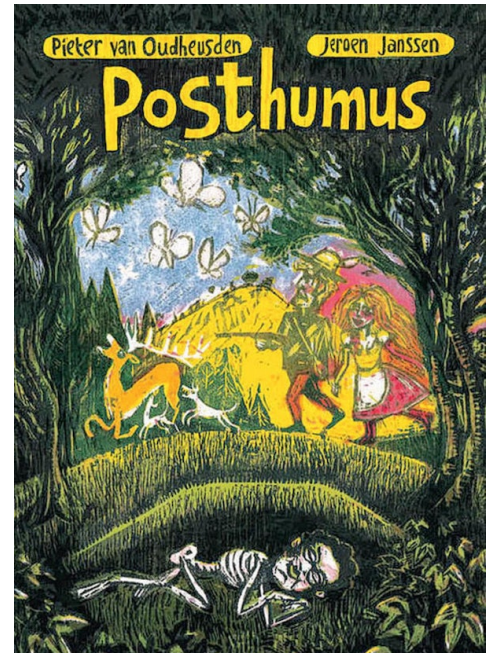
Right from the very first anecdote Janssen wins you over, lock, stock and barrel.

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Manifesting tangible affection for Schubert and his work, Pieter van Oudheusden wrote a visual song cycle in which he flits nimbly and ironically through the composer’s life and work. Jeroen Janssen has pushed himself to the limit using a variety of techniques and background colours. A magisterial last collaboration between the acclaimed scriptwriter who died in 2013 and an artist whose work occupies a unique position in Flemish comic strips.

Posthumous will captivate both people who know everything about Schubert and those who know nothing about him. ****

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AUTHORS



Jeroen Janssen (b. 1963) has always had a great passion for drawing. When he was working at an art school in Rwanda, he started turning true stories into comic strips. This approach has become his trademark and he does not shy away from difficult topics. His work includes an investigation of the threatened Flemish village of Doel and he has also depicted Ecuador and Rwanda with a great eye for detail. He received the Bronzen Adhemar oeuvre award in 2018.

Photo © Jeroen Janssen **Pieter van Oudheusden** (1957-2013) spent much of his career writing texts for picture books and comics. This Dutch literary jack-of-all-trades also translated hundreds of comics into Dutch and was the editor of several comic strip collections. His books are distinguished by their literary, philosophical texts and the artistic quality of their illustration.

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TRANSLATION RIGHTS Mat Schifferstein - mat@sherpa.nu

TRANSLATION GRANTS Lien Devos - lien.d@flandersliterature.be