

Graphic journalism of the highest order

My Comrade, Che Guevara

JEROEN JANSSEN & HILDE BAELE

In 2008 journalist Hilde Baele was sitting on a bench in Kigali, Rwanda, when she met Mzee Jérôme Sebasoni, a gardener, who told her his incredible life story. He claimed to have fought against the Belgians and to have been a close comrade of Che Guevara's in the struggle to oust the Congolese dictator Mobutu. Later, Guevara took him to Cuba, he said, where he found a wife and had a child. Baele couldn't find out any more though: soon after their conversation Sebasoni disappeared without a trace. Baele roped in her illustrator friend Jeroen Janssen to help her find Che's guide and get to the bottom of his claims.

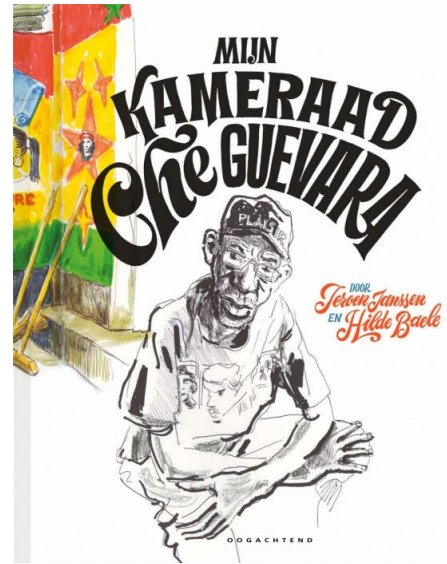
A haunting history that fills one with admiration

STRIPGIDS

They found him in Nyamirambo, Rwanda, and went in search of proof of his tall tales. Their quest took them from Niyamirambo to Bujumbura and from Havana to Varsenare, Flanders. Gradually they pieced together a picture of Sebasoni's life. All the powerful graphic material in this impressive book was sketched and painted on the spot by Janssen. Baele and Janssen tell the story of their Herculean detective work with a mix of gravity and humour. This is a remarkable testament to an extraordinary life story.

Four books for the price of one: an adventurous travelogue, a suspenseful whodunit, a biography and a history book

GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN



AUTHORS



Jeroen Janssen (b. 1963) has been a postman, teacher, driver, gardener, library assistant and has worked with psychiatric patients. He has always had a great passion for drawing, but did not start making comics until the 1990s. 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*

Hilde Baele (b. 1967) is a writer and illustrator currently living in Mauritania. Her commitment to advancing women's and children's rights, the right to information and self-determination is passionate, and she brings the full force of her imagination to this crusade. Humour is an important element in the books and didactic materials that she creates.

ORIGINAL TITLE Mijn kameraad Che Guevara (2020, Oogachtend, 160 pp.)

FORMAT 296 x 248

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Ann Jossart - ann@oogachtend.be

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