

A fairy tale, though not for the faint of heart

Shady

BRECHT VANDENBROUCKE

Shady has just one goal in life: to get attention. That's the same, after all, as love and recognition. Both narcissistic and subject to crippling insecurity, Shady lives a life full of drama. But the followers and the likes do not come, and he remains lonely and isolated, longing to be noticed. Fortunately a fairy has been tasked with saving a lost soul. Her eye falls on Shady. The only problem is that he needs to be the one to ask for help. Can Shady ever achieve self-awareness?

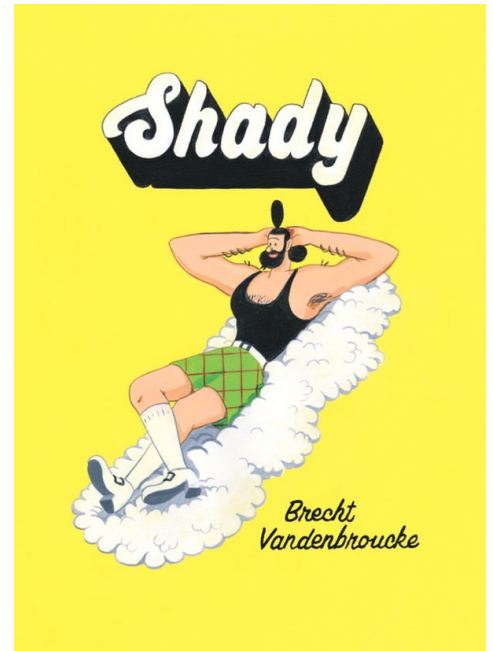
Evocative and hilarious

THE HUNDREDS

In 'Shady' Brecht Vandenbroucke interweaves the one-page gags of 'Shady B*tch' with chapters about the attempts by fairy Iris to save Shady. Selfie culture, with all its perversions, is just one of the many things Vandenbroucke pokes fun at, sometimes biting, sometimes by means of slapstick. In his unique style, he creates a universe all his own: colourful, absurd, and packed with references to popular culture and social trends. Vandenbroucke's pictures sometimes occupy a double page, so he can really go to town. 'Shady' is a merciless examination of our cultural and human depravities, and a real feast for the eye.

With a relentless eye for detail, he picks up on every little perversion of our daily realities, with an unignorable candour mixed with pop iconography relatable to all

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AUTHOR



Brecht Vandenbroucke (b. 1986) creates hand-painted drawings and illustrations that are chock-full of references to pop and gaming culture. He debuted in 2013 with *White Cube*, in which he takes a satirical and critical look at the world of classic and modern art through the eyes of his two main characters. Vandenbroucke designed fabrics for Prada and Walter Van Beirendonck, and works as a freelance illustrator for newspapers and magazines such as *De Morgen* and *The New York Times*. *Photo* © Bart Van der Moeren

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