

A mother and child reunion

Crumbs of Comfort

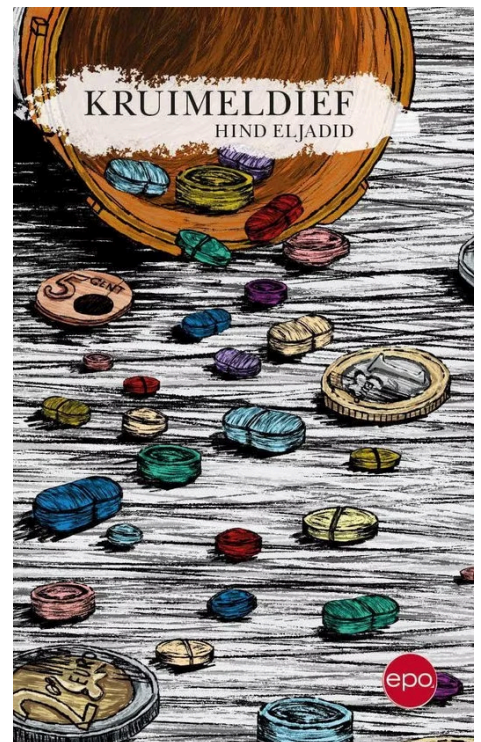
HIND & FATIMA-ZAHRA ELJADID

A disease is consuming the body of Hind and Fatima-Zahra Eljadid's mother. It is a slow and painful decline that inevitably causes instability during their upbringing. On top of that comes an acrimonious divorce from her aggressive husband, the presence and absence of a new man in her life, her own hot-tempered nature and tendency to hit out, the embarrassment the sisters sometimes experience on her behalf and the poverty in which they live, in a disadvantaged neighbourhood of Antwerp. Despite these difficult circumstances, the sisters have written and drawn a portrait of their mother that is in no sense vengeful. It is certainly shocking, but also a warm portrait of love from and for a mother. Rarely does a literary debut grow into such an out-and-out mother book.

'Crumbs of Comfort' is anything but a hagiography, rather it is poetic, with pages of unvarnished and harrowing prose interspersed with lines of verse and colourful illustrations that give readers a chance to catch their breath. At the same time it is a raw and frank elegy about unexpected small gestures, motherly love, parting, looking back, remembering and the emergence of sisterly love.

'Crumbs of Comfort' is in short a mother book that places just about all those that have gone before in the shade.

KNACK



AUTHOR



Hind Eljadid (b. 1993) is an Antwerp word artist and writer. She has won several prizes and recounts her life story in her debut. In 2018 she received the BILL Award and in 2020 the El Hizra Literature Prize for her performance poetry. On her platform ZonderWolk she gives space to word artists who are just starting out. With her critical thinking she is conquering the literary world word by word. **Fatima-Zahra Eljadid** (b. 1992) is an illustrator, artist and stop-motion animator in Antwerp. Since 2020 she has been on the editorial board of Strippgids Vlaanderen and a social-cultural worker at VOEM, the Association for the Development and Emancipation of Muslims. © David Degelin

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