

Little big dreams

Later When I'm Big

MATTIAS DE LEEUW & BETTE WESTERA

A little girl goes swimming along with her mother. Perhaps inspired by what she sees there, the girl starts to dream about all the things she'll dare to do when she's bigger. She'll surely dare to do everything, from kissing elephants on the tips of their trunks to diving from the top board with her eyes open. Or playing with the monster and the dragon under her bed. Or dancing with a jellyfish. She makes wild plans and dreams big, but secretly she's glad she can be small for a while yet.

What verve, what movement

JURY OF THE SILVER AND GOLD PAINT BRUSHES ON 'CIRCUS NIGHT'

'Later When I'm Big' is a poetic book in which reality and fantasy overlap. The story radiates courage, and the distilled text encourages children to think big, to have adventurous fantasies about their own dreams, future and talents. Bette Westera knows how to say a lot in just a few words. The beautiful illustrations by Mattias De Leeuw are a combination of sparse ink lines and backgrounds in bright colours. The rich pictures are full of fantasy and humorous details. 'Later When I'm Big' is a special book for all children thinking about getting big.

De Leeuw never fails to enchant us.

PLUIZUIT ON 'A ROPE IN THE AIR'



AUTHORS



Mattias De Leeuw (b. 1989) has a smooth style with spontaneous, flowing lines. This fluidity means that his illustrations are often full of whirling motion, which works well in the large format he often uses. He employs a cheerful colour palette with striking touches of colour, using thick spontaneous brushes to make rough strokes and adding the details with a pen. His pictures convey as much magic as the text, and are packed with details, visual jokes and little side stories that appeal to both young and old. *Photo © Noortje Palmers* **Bette Westera** (b. 1958) has written many children's books, among them picture, poetry and nonfiction books. This Dutch author is also sought after as a picture book translator, especially when rhyme is involved. In her seemingly simple texts, she manages to combine serious issues and humour. Her books and poems are imaginative and boast recognisable themes. She has won several awards and her work is often compared to that of Annie M.G. Schmidt. *Photo © Marijn Olislagers*

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