CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH LITERATURE

A poetic fable about the importance of stories

The Whale Library

JUDITH VANISTENDAEL & ZIDROU

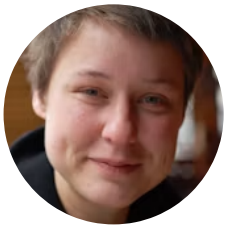
A postman at sea has to leave his loved one again and again to set sail in his rickety boat. This is even harder for him now that she is pregnant. One night, his boat is overturned by an enormous, ancient whale. She carries an entire library inside her belly and soon takes a liking to the marine postman. She lends him a book and asks him hundreds of questions about life on land. A special friendship develops. But one night the postman can't meet her at the agreed time. The whale sticks around, waiting for him, which enables the hunters to catch her.

> A tale of exceptional beauty. Moving, tender, thoughtful and unique
>
> LIGNE CLAIRE

When two extremely talented professionals join forces, the result is bound to be impressive. Zidrou's poetic and playful fable about the importance of inspiring stories is lifted to an even higher level by Judith Vanistendael, whose gorgeous paintings depict the characters and their surroundings with great love and tenderness. She has fun with sumptuous underwater scenes and excels in the depiction of seemingly banal everyday life. Maintaining a fine balance between picture book and graphic novel, at times drenched in nostalgia, at others full of joy and happiness, 'The Whale Library' celebrates life without ever losing sight of death.

> Vanistendael once again proves her credentials as one of the strongest visual artists in Flanders and beyond.*****
>
> DE STANDAARD

AUTHORS



Judith Vanistendael (b. 1974) is both a graphic novelist and a children's book illustrator. Her work in both genres is lauded and widely translated. Her deeply human stories and her elegant style with its judicious use of watercolour and pencil have earned her a solid reputation. Zidrou (b. 1962), the penname of Benoît Drousie, is a Francophone Belgian. Before he emerged as a comic writer he worked as a teacher. He is celebrated for the humanity with which he infuses his stories. Photo (c) Hilde Bruynseels

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