

A long, long beard and its short-sighted royal owner

# The King's Golden Beard

KLAAS VERPLANCKE

A tyrannical king is proud of his lush golden beard. He spends his days admiring and grooming it, and passes laws that make it a crime punishable by death for anyone else's face to sport even a single hair. Whereas all his subjects take care every day that their jaws are smoothly shaven, the royal beard keeps right on growing, all the way round the world. One day the beard squirms in through the back door of the palace. The furious king, who thinks the earth is flat, orders his soldiers to hack its owner to pieces...

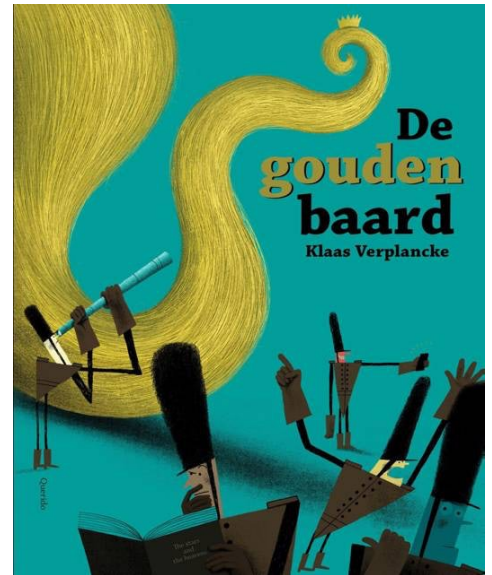
**'The King's Golden Beard' brilliantly brings a tale of the dangers of dictatorial leaders to children and adults alike.**

THE DAILY HELLER

'The King's Golden Beard' is an allegorical fairy tale as absurd as it is topical, with delightful humour. It makes children think about the meaning of power and the use of power, and demonstrates the dangers of dictatorial rulers. The lively pictures with their exceptional use of colour and ingenious composition complement the surrealist, slightly absurdist tone of the narrative beautifully. Verplancke's wicked humour and witty stories have already prompted comparisons with Tomi Ungerer, Jon Agee and Jon Klassen.

**What once might have been 'long ago' seems eerily not so long ago at all.**

THE NEW YORK TIMES



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## AUTHOR

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**Klaas Verplancke's** (b. 1964) oeuvre is very diverse, but always features a sense of humour that ranges from gentle to sardonic, a poetic imagination, a preference for the depiction of abstract concepts and universal emotions, and a quirky, surrealist view of the world. Verplancke has won a Bologna Ragazzi Award, was finalist in 2006 for the Hans Christian Andersen Medal for Illustration and has been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award more than ten times in a row.

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**TRANSLATION RIGHTS** Marleen Seegers - marleen.seegers@2seasagency.com

**TRANSLATION GRANTS** Elise Vanoosthuysse - elise@flandersliterature.be