

Animal-packed read-aloud book about climate change

Saved!

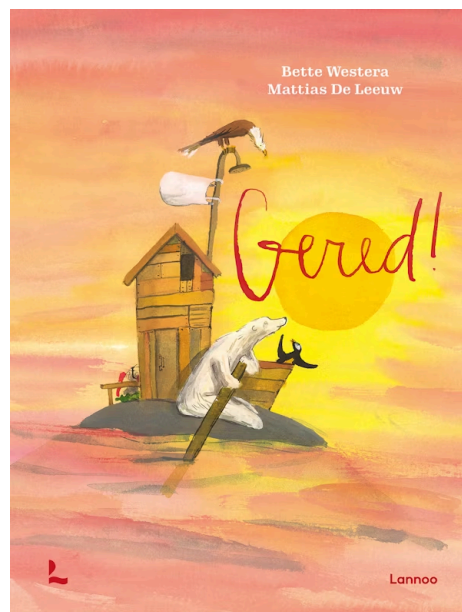
MATTIAS DE LEEUW & BETTE WESTERA

Arend is born in a nest on an ice floe. The sun never sets there, which at first Arend finds rather pleasant. But then the ice melts and the nest slides into the cold sea. Arend acknowledges defeat. He takes to the air, spreads his wings and lets the wind carry him along. From the sky, however, Arend can see that the water is rising. Soon all the animals will drown, he thinks. Somebody must do something, but who?

Saved! is a compelling picture book, full of beautiful details, which invites our imagination to examine the effects of global warming. ****

NRC HANDELSBLAD

'Saved!' is a contemporary fable in which Bette Westera and Mattias De Leeuw make a poetic plea for cooperation and steadfastness. The story, tailor-made for young children, tells of the impact of climate change. Westera portrays the animals' naive light-heartedness and Arend's despair in compelling and playful verses, without passing judgement. She playfully invites children to think for themselves about the warming of the earth. With dynamic and bold brushstrokes, De Leeuw lifts the reader onto Arend's back to look out across wide panoramas. Against that colourful background he zooms in on poses, facial expressions and compositions that evoke humour but also a sense of impending danger. With 'Saved!' De Leeuw and Westera have created a beautiful read-aloud book that will thrill readers of all generations.



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. 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. 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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