

A lake full of surprises

The Monster in the Lake

LEO TIMMERS

Four ducks get bored of their little pond. 'Come on, we're going to the lake!' decides one of the four fearlessly. Erik walks at the back of the group and cautiously expresses his doubts. The lake? Doesn't a terrible monster live there? Unimpressed by Erik's objections, the group continues undaunted, off on an adventure. Those are only fables; there's nothing under the water except for some fish and some frogs – perfectly normal creatures that aren't the slightest bit frightening. Erik has no choice but to trust the group. After taking a dive under water, however, Erik makes a startling discovery: 'MONSTER!'. The little group in front of Erik doesn't believe him and calmly swims on towards the far bank. He mustn't be so pathetic. After that, Erik's wonderful underwater adventure begins and he has the time of his life. And the group? The others gradually start to fear that maybe there is a creepy creature swimming underneath them after all.

Another gorgeous Timmers spectacle, full of captivating details

DE MORGEN

In 'The Monster in the Lake', Leo Timmers demonstrates once again what makes him unique as an illustrator. With his familiar humorous undertone, animal characters that almost jump off the page, and surprising devices for building the tension, Timmers succeeds in portraying themes such as group pressure, self-confidence and how to overcome fear in ways children will find irresistible. With a detailed fold-out page almost a metre wide, you don't know where to look first in the underwater world of 'The Monster in the Lake'. Brave duck Erik is bound to win the hearts of young and old alike.



AUTHOR



Leo Timmers's (b. 1970) cartoonish style is characterized by humour, form and colour, which make his illustrations leap off the page. His bright pictures and sharply outlined figures are a perfect match for the humorous undertone of his stories, which are full of animals and modes of transportation. Timmers likes to tell stories visually with a minimum of words. He was the first Flemish illustrator to have a book included in The New York Times' ten best books of the year. Photo © Jildiz Kaptein

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