

The power of friendship

Fox, Bird and Me

KRISTOF DEVOS

A girl looks out of the window, bored. She's searching for something, even though she doesn't know what. Just when she has decided there's nothing to be found, she hears wings flap. She goes outside, curious, and meets Bird and Fox. She follows them through a hole in the wall and discovers that next to her austere, colourless world is a world bursting with colour. It's the start of a unique friendship with Bird and Fox. The arrival of a bird of prey, which injures Bird, briefly seems to mark the end of both the game and the friendship. But even though Bird can no longer fly, Fox, Bird, and the girl find each other in a new way.

The few, but beautifully chosen words support the magical pictures, in the same way the friends are a powerful support for one other.

BOEKENZOEKER

Few words are needed in this gentle story. The use of colour is symbolic: without Fox and Bird the illustrations are grey and dull; with their arrival, orange, yellow, red, green and blue tones seep into the book. The composition and the perspective occasionally seem rather cartoon-like. 'Fox, Bird and Me' is a hopeful tale about the power of friendship, and it shows how we can overcome difficulties with the help of others. But it can also be read as a book that calls for a reevaluation of nature whilst also paying attention to mental wellbeing: a book about life itself.

This tender story carries you away and gets under your skin.

PLUIZUIT



AUTHOR



Kristof Devos (b. 1981) is an illustrator, author and teacher. He also designs watches. His work tends to be labelled idiosyncratic as a result of the emotional subjects he explores, such as friendship, death, or standing up for yourself. His central characters are often outsiders. His work has been described as both quirky and modest. Once in a while he puts down his pencil and takes to the stage, giving public talks on diverse themes such as inspiration and imagination.

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