

The high price of friendship

# The Rightful Finder

LIZE SPIT

In his village in De Kempen in Flanders, eleven-year-old Jimmy is not exactly the most popular of boys. At school he's the cleverest, but also the loneliest in the class. He lives with his mother, who is bitter after Jimmy's father left. He finds comfort in collecting. Jimmy dreams of becoming famous with his collection of 'flippos', round plastic discs that were hidden in bags of crisps in the 1990s, which he neatly organises in folders. All the money he collects through finding and keeping small change goes towards buying these bags of crisps.

Jimmy's luck changes when a new boy arrives in the class. Tristan Ibrahim is a refugee from Kosovo and, as if by chance, he sits next to Jimmy on the school benches. With the same fanaticism as he applies to his flippos, Jimmy throws himself into coaching Tristan. He is befriended by the large Ibrahim family and, as well as a second home, he finds a purpose in life: for the first time, he means something to other people. But although Jimmy devotes himself manically to his new mission, it soon becomes clear that he is less concerned about the Ibrahimis' refugee trauma.

**Flawless, exciting, topical and moving**

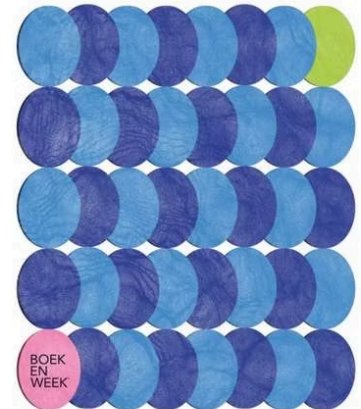
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When the family receives a deportation letter ordering them to leave Belgium almost immediately, Tristan thinks up a plan in which Jimmy will play a crucial role. How far is Jimmy prepared to go for this friendship?

Born storyteller Lize Spit unfolds the plot of this novella in a way that makes it extremely exciting. 'The Rightful Finder' is topical and moving. With her humorous and empathetic pen, the author has managed to make Jimmy into an unforgettable central character.

## DE EERLIJKE VINDER



**LIZE SPIT**

### AUTHOR



**Lize Spit** (b. 1988), living in Brussels, gained a master's degree in screenplay writing and has also written prose and poetry, published in several magazines. In 2013 she won both the jury prize and the readers' prize at WriteNow!, a prestigious writing competition. Her debut novel *The Melting* was published to widespread acclaim and became an instant bestseller both in Flanders and beyond. Rights have been sold to more than 10 countries. Photo © Keke Keukelaar

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**PRIZES** Nominated for The Jean Monnet Prize for European Literature

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