

An extraordinary ode to a great little creature

The Big Chicken Book

EVELIEN DE VLIAGER & JAN HAMSTRA

Our earth is home to three times as many chickens as there are people. Chickens are descended from dinosaurs and the primordial chicken must be around 150 million years old. The chicken beats the human being hands down, and not only by having such burly ancestors, since the bird is more intelligent, more important and more beautiful than we tend to think. It's high time to become more familiar with this exceptional creature.

In 'The Big Chicken Book' you'll get to know more about the anatomy of the hen and the cock, discover how many different colours and plumage patterns they have, find out how to predict whether a chicken will lay a white or a brown egg, and learn to cluck, cackle and crow in several languages.

De Vliager approaches her subject with sincere admiration, and it shows.

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At a great pace and with humour, Evelien De Vliager has written an extraordinary ode to a great little creature that's found everywhere but about which we know little. The realistic and colourful linocuts by Jan Hamstra are a visual tour de force and on paper they truly come to life. A book bursting with love for the bird, enabling chickens to win over even the most vehement of chicken-haters.

Ornamental chickens, fighting cocks and common-or-garden hens shine out at you in bold lines and deep colours.

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AUTHORS



Evelien De Vliager (b. 1969) is a writer and translator. She creates fictional worlds that feel familiar but are always unpredictable, that captivate without being melodramatic. She writes quirky stories set in the here and now, with plenty of subtle humour. Her oeuvre ranges from nonfiction and picture books to stories for beginning readers and YA novels. *Photo © Iris Beeckman* **Jan Hamstra** (b. 1993) is a Dutch illustrator and silkscreen printer. He creates his illustrations using relief printmaking techniques. All his imagery is hand carved from wood or linoleum, as a basis for his illustrations and posters. He often adds to them digitally, while always maintaining a traditional look. His graphic work has won him many prizes.

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