

Moving portrait of a couple with fertility problems

# A Child of Clay

BENJAMIN LEROY

Ben and Mina have been together for ten happy years. Ben is an illustrator, and he creates a world in which everything and everyone is made of clay. Children come into being when parents combine their own clay with river clay and together model it into a child, into which they then breathe life. Inspired by that idea, Ben and Mina decide to start making children themselves. After a year of trying to get pregnant, the verdict is harsh: they won't succeed by natural means. They start out on a long and demanding course of ICSI treatment. Meanwhile Ben continues to draw his world of clay, and there the creation of a child of clay fails too.

**This heart rending book is one of the most moving graphic novels of 2024. A visual masterpiece**

STRIPWEB

'A Child of Clay' is award-winning illustrator Benjamin Leroy's debut as a graphic novelist. Loosely inspired by his own experiences, he depicts a loving couple going through a difficult period, in which the man relieves his pain by making the couple in his drawings of a clay world encounter the same things. In pencil and in orange and blue ecoline, Leroy creates a loving and moving portrait of two people who despite everything keep rediscovering each other.

**Honest and poetic**

KNACK



## AUTHOR



Benjamin Leroy's (b. 1980) work is characterised by a mix of emotion, humour and absurdity. He enjoys applying layers to his drawings so that readers can discover new elements in even the smallest details of his work. He works with whatever materials he finds on his drawing table: coloured card, ballpoint pens, coloured pencils, acrylic paint, masking tape, brushes... Chance plays a big role in all of this. His work is often simultaneously exuberant and fragile, marked by great diversity yet also a highly personal signature. *Photo © Johannes Van De Voorde*

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