

A joyful ode to the apple

# The Fairest of Them All

EVELIEN DE VLIAGER & WENDY PANDERS

'An apple a day keeps the doctor away': the apple is our most commonplace fruit. Evelien De Vlieger has a weakness for the underdog, so we should not be surprised that in this book she champions the unpretentious fruit. From the prehistorical apple through Greek myths and Norse gods via William Tell, Newton and Snow White to the upside-down apple of the tarte tatin: in her nimble, humorous style De Vlieger tells fifteen stories in which the apple is central.

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

NRC ON 'THE BIG CHICKEN BOOK'

The stories alternate with heaps of facts about apples. Where does the apple actually come from? Why is it that if you plant an apple pip you won't get a tree that bears exactly the same apples? Was Granny Smith really a granny? De Vlieger looks into insects, superstition, festivals, nutritional value, grafting and pollination. The many illustrations by Wendy Panders are as cheerful as the text: colourful, funny and informative. 'The Fairest of Them All' shows that an apple is far more than just the most boring option in the fruit bowl.

**With lots of humour, but also with suitable precision, the drawings add significant value to the book.**

PLUIZER ON 'THE BIKE BOOK'



## AUTHORS



**Evelien De Vlieger** (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 **Wendy Panders** (b. 1966) worked as a graphic designer before drawing took over. She makes illustrations for newspapers, magazines and books for adults and children, but children's books are her favourite. She uses pen, ink, paint and chalk as well as a computer.

**ORIGINAL TITLE** De mooiste van het land. Sappige weetjes en verhalen over de appel (2026, Lannoo, 144 pp.)

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**AGE** 9+

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