

The weird and wonderful way home

# Atman!

BART MOEYAERT & MARK JANSSEN

Atman goes to get a loaf of bread for himself and his dad, but he gets lost on the way back. Before he knows it, he's been kidnapped by a female pirate captain who won't be trifled with, is catapulted into a forest where a shadow threatens him, survives a storm on the pirate ship after ending up in the sea and eventually – with the help of a girl in the city – finds his way home. There his dad is waiting for him, holding the cat.

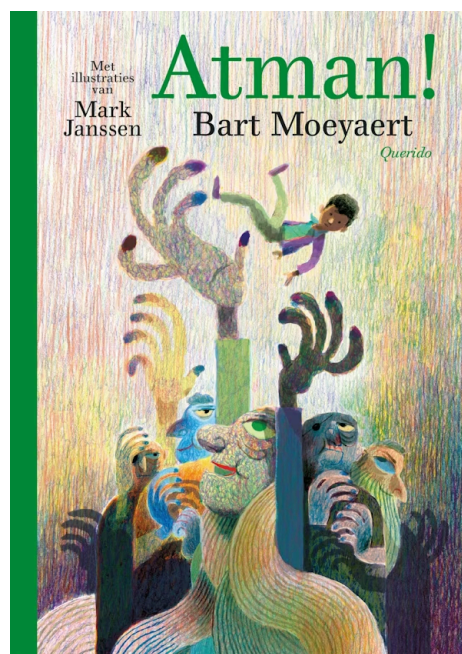
'Atman!' is first-rate, as we've come to expect from Bart Moeyaert: sharp, clever and highly relevant.\*\*\*1/2

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Bart Moeyaert wrote 'Atman!' as a libretto for the Dutch National Opera, and it shows: the sentences flow and the rhythm is unmistakable. Mark Janssen goes to town with paint and coloured pencil, bringing the colourful pirates, fish, birds and forests to life. Atman is a plaything of circumstances, bravely trying to bear up – or are those circumstances a product of his imagination after all? However that may be, Moeyaert and Janssen light-heartedly address sensitive subjects like uprootedness, loneliness and homesickness. 'Atman!' is a brilliant book that begs to be read aloud.

A multi-layered book in which feelings of loss and displacement are playfully touched upon

DE TIJD



## AUTHORS



**Bart Moeyaert** (b. 1964) was barely nineteen when he made his debut in 1983. A master of the unsaid, his books are always received with great acclaim, and have been described by critics as poetic, cinematic and appealing to the senses. Moeyaert often deals with complex existential subjects, in an insightful and accessible way. His books have won many awards at home and abroad, and have been translated into more than twenty languages. In 2019 he won the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, the world's most prestigious award for children's literature. Photo © Diego Franssens  
Dutch illustrator **Mark Janssen** (b. 1974) studied at the Art Academy in Maastricht and immediately became a full-time illustrator of children's books. He has illustrated over 500 books and his work has been translated into more than twenty languages.

**ORIGINAL TITLE** Atman! (2025, Querido, 68 pp.)

**FORMAT** 177 mm x 248 mm

**AGE** 7+

**PRIZES** Woutertje Pieterse Prize

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