

Biblical science fiction

The Moonwalker

SIMON SPRUYT

A new observer for the Family lands in the Mesopotamia of 4,000 years ago. These dematerialized superior lifeforms are continually in search of other creatures in the universe who are developed enough to become part of the Family. The previous observer on earth, however, was never heard from again after reporting that he was struggling with the most important protocol of all: do not intervene. The new observer, who takes the form of a priestess of Ishtar, is struck by the primitive living conditions and barbaric behaviour of humankind. She quickly discovers that adhering to the protocol is easier said than done.

Spruyt is a master storyteller, and this is without doubt his pièce de résistance

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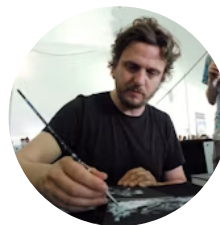
With 'The Moonwalker', Simon Spruyt surprises readers with a layered narrative that is a cross between a biblical story and science fiction. He weaves in the history of nomadic peoples and urbanisation, alongside a philosophical exploration of human nature and its tendency towards religion and violence. Yet it all adds up to an adventurous story with many light-hearted scenes imbued with a clever sarcasm. Perhaps above all it is a true pleasure to look at. With ecoline and the occasional coloured pencil, Spruyt brings the colourful Canaan vividly to life. Drawing on Mesopotamian and Egyptian art, he even renders some scenes entirely in those styles. 'The Moonwalker' is an exceptionally original and impressive graphic novel from one of Flanders' most versatile creators.

Adventurous, mildly sarcastic and a feast for the eyes. The most literary graphic author of the Low Countries. ****1/2

KNACK



AUTHOR



Simon Spruyt (b. 1978) calls himself a 'Belgian Comics Engineer'. This comic book artist is a masterful storyteller. The tone, style and atmosphere of his graphic novels vary greatly from book to book, but are always just right. Time and again, Spruyt demonstrates that he masters and manipulates the graphic novel medium like no other. Photo © Marc Tessier

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