

A fairytale whodunnit packed with absurd humour

Sir Faintheart

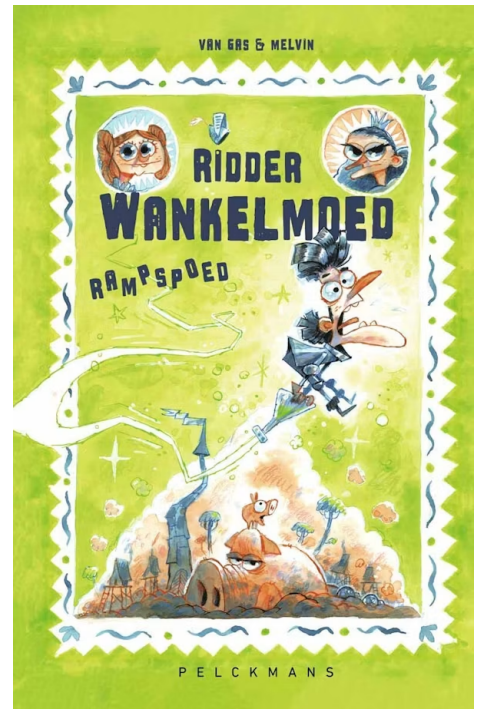
VAN GAS

The entire court is in an uproar: Princess Aurelia's gold has disappeared from the Copper Tower. It's an impossible crime, as the tower is exceptionally well guarded. But as a powerful ruler, the princess naturally has her share of enemies... She commands Brunhilde, a sharp-witted chambermaid, to solve the mystery alongside her famous uncle, Sir Faintheart. If they fail, they will pay with their lives. Brunhilde soon realises that keeping her foolish uncle under control is almost as much of a challenge as solving the theft. Luckily, she herself is cut from cleverer cloth.

The coolest, funniest and craziest children's book of 2024

WONDERLAND BY ALICE ON 'WILLE'

With buckets of humour and plenty of pace, Van Gas tells a detective story that turns expectations about the world of fairytales and knights upside down – and does the same to conventional power dynamics. The princess doesn't need anyone to rescue her and rules with an iron fist, the most dangerous Viking in the land is a woman as well, and the knight who gives the book its title is a hopeless windbag. Meanwhile, the underdog Brunhilde proves herself a brilliant observer. Yet the characters are neither one-dimensional nor easily divided into good and evil. 'Sir Faintheart' is a hilarious whodunnit full of exuberant humour and set in a delightfully grotesque world.



AUTHOR



Van Gas, pseudonym of Kurt Van Gasse (b. 1977), is an engineer and an author of children's books. That combination means that science often percolates into his work. After years of speaking his mind in columns and short stories as part of the literary collective This is How We Read, he made his debut in 2024 with Wille: Revenge on Miss Halitosis. Photo © Liesbeth Selleslach

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